THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

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COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

TALK TO ME.

The following graceful verses are taken from a volume entitled "Little Alice in Wonderland," a child's book, illustrated by Tenniel, and published in London by MacMillan:

"White Rose, talk to me!
I don't know what to do.
Why do you say no word to me,
Who say so much to you?

"I'm bri ging you a little rain,
And I shall be so proud,
If, when you feel it on your face,
You take me for a cloud.

"Here I come so softly,
You cannot hear me walking;
If I like you by surprise,
I may catch you talking.

"Tell all your thoughts to me,
Whisper in my ear;
Talk against the water,
He shall n ver hear.

"I can keep a secret
Since I was five years old;
Tell it you were frightened
When first you felt the cold;

"And in the splendid summer,
While you fleet and grow,
Are you ever out of heart,
Thinking of the snow?"

SEASONS.

O the cherry- ees come!
When they rn to green.
When new- ssom and lime
Cluster ng the winter green;
Tender nds rn and "no,"
North wi ot know to bring,
Vigorous Na ngs, "Ha, ha,"
In the advan of spring.

O the gorgeou on-days!
When bound g flowers drink and blow,
In and out n summer blaze
Dragon-flies ost to and fro;
Ashen brush hand out keys,
Oaks put forth the oof shoot,
Wandering rds wax shr k at ease,
Lovely blossoms end in fruit.

O the shouting Harvest weeks!
Mother earth grown fat with sheaves,
Thrifty gleaner nds who seeks:
Russet-golden ompts of leaves
Crowns the woods, to fall at length;
Breezing winds ain for mirth;
Ocean gather up her strength,
Roars to renew heir deathless ur.

O the starving Winter-lapse!
Ice-bound, hunger-pinched, and dim:
Dormant roots recall their sap,
Empty nests ow black and grim.
Short-lived sunshine gives no heat,
Undue buds are nipped by frost,
Snows set forth a winding sheet,
And all hope of life eases.

—*Christina G. Rossetti.*

Among Cannibals.

Mr Charles Livingstone, Her Majesty's Consul in the Bight of Biafra, sends to the Foreign Office the following narrative of his interview with the King of the Okrika country in July with a view to terminate war between that country and New Calabar; the Consul was accompanied by three chiefs of Bonny:

"Op Okrika, the chief town, is built on a dry ridge, part of which is adorned with magnificent trees. A stockade, through which peep some guns, defends the water front of the town, which seemed longe than Grand Bonny. Dense masses of people crowded the beach at the public landing-place. The Bonny chiefs, Prince George, Banigo, Calendusi, landed, but we remained in the boats until they had seen the King. In 15 minutes they returned and beckoned us to land. The stench was terrible; all the stinks at the outlets of all the African villages I ever entered, though mixed and shaken together would be weak compared to this. After passing through the crowd, we met some fellows who tried to stop us. It was contrary to juju for white men to enter the town." The Bonny chiefs scolded, and we pushed on, but soon met a mob of hundreds, and further progress was impossible. In vain did Banigo and Calendusi scold and push, and knock some down; the others pressed closer together, shouting, barking, and gesticulating frantically. After looking at the performance until we got tired of it, we returned to the boats. A canoe came off with two messengers from the King inviting us to come ashore. Guards armed with long sticks at the corners of the streets and the town was quiet. We were conducted to the King's audience chamber, which had no light except what came in by the door. Chairs were brought, and the chiefs and I were seated in. A beating of drums announced that the King had gone to the juju-house to consult the spirits before proceeding to business. In half an hour King Fibia appeared at the head of a column of 45, with a round good-natured looking face. He shook hands and sat down on a low stool in a corner. Apologizing for the rude reception his people had given us, he said we must wait till the following day, as some of his chiefs had not yet arrived from their villages. A table of home manufacture was brought in, the Queen spread a tablecloth over it, and a bottle of (unintoxicating wine) was presented. Permission to see the town was given, and we paid a visit to the juju-house; a noisy crowd attempted to rush in after us, but a vigorous application of the long sticks of the guards drove them back. Masses of human skulls hung from the walls, and numerous rows of skulls cover the roof of a sort of altar. In front of this altar, at the juju-man, having a footstool of human skulls. The Okrika had eaten the victims whose skulls decorate the juju-house. An old man who accompanied us spoke with evident gusto of the different cannibal feasts he had partaken of, mentioned the part of the human body which he considered the sweetest. It is the first time I have seen cannibals in Africa. We saw men at work tarring ropes; others retailed gin in the streets by the wineglass. We had a glimpse of the Okrika funeral ceremony. Three young men, facing the same way, had the corpse of a boy done up in mats and cloth on their shoulders. They twisted and tugged, and appeared as if struggling with some unseen spirits who wished to drag the body to a shallow open grave by the side of a house. At times the young men had the advantage, and brought the body back from the grave; then the spirits prevailed, and dragged them forward. A man kept beating a drum. The Okrika are very well clothed, most of the cloth being made of the palm leaf. They are acquainted with several vegetable dyes; two —a yellow and a blue are used to paint their persons. We slept in Banigo's large village which has an oil market, and about two miles from the capital. A good dinner was provided and we were offered a choice of sleeping apartments, close inner rooms, or open verandahs; my companions preferred the latter. I was conducted to a neighboring house and found the people very kind. My bed, small boxes, of unequal height and width, was in the best room, in which I found a good fire, 30 kegs of powder, and a considerable quantity of cloth and gin. I managed to sleep tolerably well, but my companions were badly bitten by the sand-flies. A King's messenger came for us at sunrise, and shortly after 7 we were seated with the King and his chiefs. King Fibia remarked that in Bonny the King and chiefs could settle public affairs, but in Okrika the people always wanted to be present. He thought it would be better to have an interview in a public place, so that his people could hear all that was said, and not have to pester him with questions after we were gone. We accordingly adjourned to the street. There was some disturbance at first, but nothing like that of an excited political gathering in a civilized country. King Fibia requested them to quiet down, and listen to what was said. His Prime Minister and orator, having before him specimens of two kinds of dried fish, a fish trap, and piece of net, commenced by remarking that they were glad to see me. They did not understand the customs of the white men; no white man had ever been in their town before, and they hoped I would excuse them if they proceeded in their own way. He then picked up the dried fish, the trap and net, and handed them to me, saying 'Bonny and Calabar have ships to trade with, Okrika has nothing but fish. It is on fish we live, it is with fish we buy the oil we have to sell, and this has been so ever since Okrika became a country. It was in the creeks I saw in coming that they caught their fish, and Calabar men came into these creeks and stole it out of the nets, and also their canoes." Mr. Livingstou discussed with them terms of peace, and it was finally arranged that Fibia should send down two of his chiefs to meet the chiefs of Bonny and Calabar and settle the differences. The Consul adds, "The session lasted four hours and a half. Never before in Africa have I seen such powerful looking men as the Okrika. I could notbut admire their physical strength. As they sat before me chewing bits of chopstick to clean their teeth and gazing earnestly at me, the thought occasionally flashed across my mind. 'Are these cannibals wondering how a piece of roast Consul would taste, and which would be most savory, cold salmon or hot?' On parting, Fibia made me a present of about a cartload of gigantic yams, two goats, and a fowl."

An Incident of the War.

A lady in Savannah, writing a description of the entry of Sherman into that city, relates the following interesting incident:

Tired at last of waiting, we were seated together in our parlor—bare and rude enough after four years of destitution—when a loud ring at the bell startled us once more into terror. It could be no one but our enemy. What did he want? Our silver, perhaps; the little gold we had left to keep the wolf from the door; or perhaps my father? My lips blanched as they formed, but did not dare to utter the word. But our affright was tenfold increased when General Sherman was announced. If he had sent we should have feared; but coming himself, what was the limit to our apprehensions? The issue must be met, and my father rose nobly and firmly facing whatever was to come, as the door opened and the enemy was shown in. In full uniform, entered. Without pausing for ordinary formalities, he stepped to my father, grasped and shook him warmly by the hand, asked kindly after his health, and said he was delighted to see him. Then suddenly referring to old memories, he slapped him heartily on the back and said: What can I do for you, my old friend? If there is anything you want, let me know. I could have thrown my arms around his neck in spite of his disregard for etiquette, and I believe that a tear came into my eyes and rolled down my cheek. I know I felt too chocked to speak when my father presented me to him. When I saw that pleasant face, although I could read a fixed devotion to duty, I could see in it a plain refutation of all accusations of unnecessary cruelty. From that day to this, Sherman has had no warmer friend than I, rebel though I am.

EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA.—The Legislature of Virginia has done a good thing in appropriating $80,000 for the education of white and black children. Considering that this is done by a State where it was an offense three years ago to teach a slave to read, and where the condition of the free blacks was hardly ady better, it indicates a glorious advance of public sentiment. It is also an act of wisdom.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The State and National Debts.

[From the Philadelphia Ledger.]

The extent of the increase of each State's indebtedness during the war is shown by the following statement of the total indebtedness in 1860 and 1866 respectively:

States.	Indebtedness, 1860.	1866.	Increase.
Alabama	$ 5,048,000	$ 9,304,972	$ 4,256,972
Arkansas	3,962,622	9,295,179	5,332,557
California	3,885,000	4,974,954	1,089,954
Connecticut	50,000	10,000,000	9,950,000
Delaware	nil.	790,000	790,000
Florida	383,000	638,883	255,883
Georgia	2,670,750	5,706,500	3,035,750
Iowa	322,276	622,276	300,000
Kansas	nil.	600,806	600,806
Louisiana	10,022,903	12,357,999	2,335,096
Maine	1,937,787	5,805,681	3,344,095
Maryland	14,082,975		4,793,804
Massachusetts	17,127,474	29,555,747	12,428,273
Michigan	3,473,432	8,708,824	5,235,392
Minnesota	2,524,000	4,924,000	2,400,000
Missouri	23,923,000	37,145,928	13,222,928
New Hampshire	82,148	1,060,958	978,810
New Jersey	90,000	3,367,818	4,067,670
New York	34,182,975	31,753,062	2,429,913
North Carolina	9,726,589	11,453,000	17,570,107
Oregon	53,572	218,571	2,203,146
Rhode Island	nil.	3,626,000	164,999
South Carolina	3,691,571	5,205,227	3,626,000
Tennessee	16,841,669	25,275,722	1,513,656
Texas	nil.	2,320,960	8,433,941
Vermont	nil.	1,597,500	2,320,960
Virginia	33,248,141	45,119,741	1,597,500
Wisconsin	190,000	2,282,191	11,871,600
			2,182,191
			$319,339,992

	1860.	1866.	Decrease
Illinois	$19,170,267	8,038,252	1,541,015
Indiana	10,496,578	8,858,173	2,418,389
Kentucky	5,470,244	5,298,892	240,352
Ohio	17,229,153	15,351,048	1,877,105
Penna	37,889,126	35,621,952	2,227,074
			8,220,156
Increase			$292,287,736

The above exhibit is no doubt very imperfect, and far short of the actual increase of the public debt in the several States in the time named. There are debts of boroughs, of towns and of counties that have, no doubt, not been taken into the above account. Yet the amount given for the very large increase of $319,339,892, and of this amount in six years but $29,051,156 has been reduced, and that reduction it confined to five of the richest States in the Union. This is added to the National debt of over two thousand five hundred millions, and both items considered in connection with the fact of the slow progress made in the reduction of either, presents food for serious contemplation. As a collateral subject in this connection, worthy a passing thought, may be mentioned the heavy additional claims on the Treasury on account of bounties, the inauguration of what promises to be a rather formidable Indian war, and a decidence in the reduced revenues from income that taxation has passed the maximum point. There is nothing truer in political enconomy than that there is a limit beyond which taxation cannot be carried. Facts and figures indicate that that point has been reached in the United States. The future would be more cheerful under our load of of debt, State and National, if prices of almost all the necessaries of life were not increased from 50 to 100 per cent., and, in a great degree, through the agency of a vitiated currency. Indeed, the prices of some of the substantials of life flour, rice, molasses, etc., have increased to seven-fold. Under such burdens it is impossible that domestic labor can profitably compete with other nations for the market of the world.

How the "New Ironsides" was Saved.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* gives an account of a conversation which he had in Nashville with Col. Morgan, the father of Morgan, the rebel raider. In the course of the talk the old man narrated the circumstances of a narrow escape from destruction which the New Ironsides had. As the story is new in this part of the country, we will copy it:

"While we were talking in a general way about the war, Colonel Morgan said he had had a considerable good time of it, although sometimes, and he didn't believe he had lost more than one night's sleep from the first to the last of it. 'And that was the night I lay awake to hear the Ironsides blown up.' He then related to me the plan by which the Ironsides was to have been destroyed—but wasn't. A General Raines of the rebel army—a West Pointer, somebody called him—had a scheme that had conceived the idea of blowing her out of the water as she attempted to pass up the channel near Charleston. To this end he had prepared an Iron boiler, forty-six feet long and seven inches in diameter, which he filled with powder and sunk directly in the channel, in such a position that the doomed ship must pass over it in going up. A wooden boiler was then attached to the shore, and by means of it and a galvanic battery the powder was to be ignited. The Ironsides was watched with intense interest, until one day she made steam, and started directly down in different directions, cast anchor in the channel, directly over the magazine prepared for her destruction. As the old gentleman said in relating the fact, 'we could see the sailors on board of we had a secret her ourselves.' All that was necessary now was to work the battery, and away would go the Ironsides. But the battery wouldn't work—something was wrong—after all possible effort no explosion could be produced; and there rode the big ship in perfect safety, though if those on board had known what was under them, they would have left her, I should think. The experiment of General Raines was finally abandoned. A submarine torpedo boat was sent down against the Ironsides, which damaged her, but not materially, and after a short time she weighed anchor and went away. The rebels then raised the sunken boiler to ascertain what was the cause of its failure to accomplish what was expected of it. When the powder was taken out, and the boiler was subjected to hydraulic pressure to ascertain if the defect was in it. It was then discovered that a hole, not larger than might be made with a common bric needle in a piece of cloth, had spoiled the powder and saved the Yankee ship."

The American Journal of Horticulture.

The May number of this elegant monthly comes promptly to our table, with the same manifest improvement which has been apparent from its commencement. Of its leading articles, "City Gardens" teaches how those who reside in town may have delightful bouquets for the summer months; while Mr. Ridgely, in "Culture of the Grape in Cities," shows how they may sit under their own vine, and eat the fruit of their own labor. The Editorial department includes his excellent paper on "Flowers of May." Dr. John A. Warder, the well known pomologist, commences an article on "Summer Pruning of Grapes in Orchard-House," which we recommend attention, by the late Dr. May, of Warsaw, Ill. "Notes and Gleanings" and the "Editors' Letter Box" are well filled with most valuable and practical matter. It is there that the Magazine will first be opened and more frequently consulted. Out of the more than eighty articles which make up this number, there will be found something adapted to any locality. In the present issue, the publishers have given a complete list, with prices attached, of all books published in America since January first. The idea is good, and we hope it will be continued.

Uncle Sam in Paris.

Cham, the famous French caricaturist, in a recent number of the Paris *Charivari* has made some capital hits on our wandering fellow-countrymen. One cartoon represents a scene of desolation at a dinner table where a strong Northerner and a fire-eating Southerner are supposed to fight their battles over again on neutral ground. The knives, forks and champagne bottles are dancing around in the air, to the dismay of the other guests.

Another represents a Yankee orator in a private box at the Chamber of Deputies, who says to the janitor: "I mean to see everything during the Exhibition. Here are $50: just hire Mr. Thiers to make a speech now, while I sit here."

Another represents a long-haired inventor, who is witnessing the fatal effects produced by the explosion of one of his torpedoes on the river Seine. The experiment seems to be rather destructive of life and property, to judge from the wreck in the air. Another represents one of Uncle Sam's coloring the negro who comes out of the Exhibition every few minutes to have his boots blacked by Frenchmen, by way of humiliating the white race.

Wendell Phillips on Gen. Lee.

In his speech before the Anti-Slavery society, in New York, Wendell Phillips paid his respects to Gen. Lee as he only can, to-wit:

"I know a man, resident to-day under the Flag of the Union, in the Old Dominion, Robert E. Lee, the 'chivalrous gentleman,' the model 'patriot,' the honest 'Christian'—all these epithets indorsed by the sanction of the Apostle of the pulpits in the North. Robert E. Lee, a man steeped to the lips in oaths to the United States' Constitution, and who has kept them indignantly, until he had learned every secret of Gen. Scott, and then carried them to the headquarters of Jefferson Davis! And after that, after a hundred oaths heaped upon the head of the 'Christian' of Virginia (according to Ward Beecher), all broken the moment he was in a condition to break them advantageously, we are asked to take stock in the belief in the validity of the white man's promise or oaths in Virginia."

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT writes as follows to the New York *Evening Post* in regard to the number of Americans at Rome: "The American visitors at Rome this winter are counted by the thousands; and, if I were to judge by what I have seen and heard passing around me, I should almost say that they had expelled the English. They have been certainly as two to one compared with those who have come from the British isles. You hear English spoken in the streets and shops, but your ear tells you that it is with an American intonation. Americans swarm at the hotels, and occupy their insular cousins for the pleasantest and sunniest suites of rooms. The consequence is, of course, that Rome has grown dearer than ever. The English complain, and not without reason, that it is the Americans who have made it so, although the burdens of the government now resting upon a small population, and a paper money system almost as bad as our own, are, but, perhaps, more excusable—are certainly in part the cause."

The Southern rebels do not like the interpretation of the reconstruction acts given by the military commanders. It is said suggestions and petitions in great numbers have been received by the Administration recently from citizens within the Southern military districts, relative to the proper construction of the reconstruction acts. In nearly all the communications there is to be found complaint of the too liberal interpretations put upon the law by some of the commanders, which, it is claimed, is the very reverse of the mode of construing the law that should be adopted.

American Locomotive Wins the Prize at Paris.

The reader is already acquainted with the fact that the Patterson Locomotive Works sent a locomotive to Paris, which has attracted a great deal attention from visitors from all parts of the world. The jury on locomotives have come to a decision on the merits of the different machines. The competition was great. England having a large number, France at least a dozen. Austria and Russia three or four each. The Austrian and French members of the jury took exception to the "America" because it was so light in some of its parts, and also to the amount of polish to the iron work, which they though was more for show than utility. They claimed that the lightness of some of the machinery was a sacrifice of strength to beauty. But fortunately the English member of the jury is well informed on railroads in America are of an entirely different construction from European roads; that the country is new, and the roads cheaply built, and the ties are subject to displacement from frost; that to ride over rough roads there must be elasticity in the machinery; that American engineers had difficulties to contend with wholly unknown to Europeans; that, taking all things into consideration, the American locomotive was superior to any other in the Exhibition. His arguments were so convincing that the other jurors gave way and *awarded the gold medal to the "America."* This is a great triumph and it has been achieved through the intelligence and honesty of the English juror. Unfortunately I have not his name, but he is thoroughly conversant with American railways and American engineering, and though his own country is one of the largest competitors, he has been strenuous for justice and has succeeded in obtaining it for the United States. This is a good beginning, and if the other contributions equally deserving have equal justice considered in connection with the fact of the slow progress made in the reduction of either, presents food for serious contemplation. As a collateral subject in this connection, worthy a passing thought, may be mentioned the heavy additional claims on the Treasury on account of bounties, the inauguration of what promises to be a rather formidable Indian war, and a decidence in the reduced revenues from income that taxation has passed the maximum point. There is nothing truer in political enconomy than that there is a limit beyond which taxation cannot be carried. Facts and figures indicate that that point has been reached in the United States. The future would be more cheerful under our load of of debt, State and National, if prices of almost all the necessaries of life were not increased from 50 to 100 per cent., and, in a great degree, through the agency of a vitiated currency. Indeed, the prices of some of the substantials of life flour, rice, molasses, etc., have increased to seven-fold. Under such burdens it is impossible that domestic labor can profitably compete with other nations for the market of the world.

Letter from a Wife Murderer.

John Peter Hickey, the wife murderer, confined in Crawford county jail, has addressed the following letter to Mr. Stackpole. We find it in the Titusville *Herald*:

DEAR SIR:—I hope that you sympathize with me in my misfortune, and hope you do not believe me guilty of willful murder, as I did not know what I was doing at the time; but when I found out that I had committed murder, I gave myself up to the officers of justice. My trial came off on Wednesday last, and on Thursday I was found guilty of murder in the second degree, and on Saturday Judge Johnson sentenced me seven years solitary confinement in the Western Penitentiary, a very severe punishment, and I fear I shall not be able to undergo it. I think no man could live it out. I am confident it will kill me in a few years. To think that I must be locked up in a small cell for seven years, (the best part of my life,) is intolerable. If I should happen to live that length of time, I would come out a broken down old man, although but thirty-seven years of age at that time. If Mr. McAllister, of Titusville, had pleaded in my case, I believe I should have been acquitted. I wrote a note while he was here, praying him to exert himself in my behalf, and either procure my pardon, or lighten my sentence. I wrote to Messrs. Clark, Rice, Rice. I think they could assist me amazingly. I would be rejoiced to hear that you and Mr. Breed were interesting yourselves in my case, and circulating a petition in my behalf. I feel that you would have the prayers of my aged parents as long you live, and the heartfelt thanks of your humble servant. My parents are both advanced in years. My father is over sixty years of age, and my mother between fifty and sixty, and both are in feeble health. Their chief support has been my sister and myself. I engaged in the coal oil business, realized last fall, and my brothers are very little help to them. My father is a sailor by trade, but his eye sight is failing him. My misfortune is a very heavy blow to them. They would have visited me, but had not the money to come with. They are very poor, and need some one's help. If it should be my fortunate as to be released, I should live with them and support them as long as they lived. I am resolved to never again taste strong drink, and care not to go into company. I have no enemy friends thought best. I hope between you, Messrs. Clark, Rice, McAllister, Breed and Ostrom, something may be done for me, and prevent my old parents from going down with sorrow to the grave; and be assured you will have the heartfelt thanks of

JOHN PETER HICKEY.

The Situation in Maryland.

Political movements in Maryland are becoming decidedly interesting. The Democratic element—the same that sympathized with the rebellion down to its close, have resolved to hold a State Convention to accomplish its object, through a remodeling of the State Constitution. The Union people of the State have called another convention which will meet on the 14th instant, to invoke the popular loyal will; and it will appeal to Congress to protect the loyal masses. The enfranchisement of the colored citizens will be boldly proclaimed and demanded. On this interesting subject the Baltimore *American* says:

"It is but the renewal of the old conflict in a new form. It has to be met, and we have the right to demand of the General Government the necessary weapon to meet it. Some twenty-five or thirty thousand law-abiding men who were with us during the war, and are so still, are now of from our ranks. This is an element of strength and a certainty of success, which the Congress of the United States ought to give us, and that, too, before, and not after, the contest shall be.

"Should the Congress meet in July, we can certainly ask them, not for military interference, but the enactment of a law which will bring out the only power that can give assurance equally vital to us and to the country at large.

"It will be the duty of the Convention which meets on the 14th inst. to consider the matter, and appoint a committee to open a corrdopondence with every Republican member of Congress, calling his special attention to the condition of our affairs and urging that body to enable us to fight our own battles by giving us the proper instrument of warfare—the votes of Union and loyal men, without distinction of color."

The Business of the Railroads.

Notwithstanding the general complaints that have been made this season of dullness in all departments of business, the earnings of the great lines of railroads, which afford an unerring indication of the business prosperity of the country, show very large gains over the receipts of the corresponding months of 1866. The Erie, New York Central and Hudson River, show very large gains. The latter road, which seldom favors the public with any insight into its business, is earning the present season two thousand dollars a day more than it did last year; while its expenses have decreased nearly twenty per cent. And yet, with a certainty of its paying eight per cent. dividends on its whole stock, it has not advanced from ninety to ninety-six dollars a share during the past week.

Express Companies and Stocks.

The *Independent* says: We learn a new contract has been entered into, or is about to be entered into, with the Hudson Railroad Company by the American Express Company, which will be decidedly advantageous to the American and detrimental to the Merchants'. It is rumored, we regret to say, that all the leading lines of railroads are about combining to do the same thing with the old companies. If this is so, we may be reluctantly compelled to witness the succumbing of the Merchants' Union to the grasping monopolies of the old companies, and record the failure of an enterprise which certainly has ever had our sympathies and well-wishes, as well as that of the public. A freely time in express stocks may be looked for from this time forward.

A WANDERING DISTRICT ATTORNEY.—The Bedford *Inquirer*, in announcing the appointment of E. F. Kerr, Esq., as District Attorney for Bedford county, in place of John Palmer, Esq., who decamped some time in February or March, says: "Palmer left Bedford with Mr. Meyers and others to spend a few days in Washington, D. C. On the return of the party to Huntingdon, he is represented as oversleeping himself and going on up the road to the next station, from which he returned to Huntingdon, but too late for the Broad Top train. He loafed around Huntingdon for several hours, when he announced he would go up to Altoona and see some friends and return with a late train. He was afterwards seen in Pittsburgh, and still later by a lady of the upper end of the county, somewhere in Ohio. It is currently reported that he passed through Huntingdon on Sunday evening, the 5th inst., on the Cincinnati express. Whether this be so or not, it is evident that he has deserted his friends here. He had collected several thousand dollars of back pay, bounty and pension for different persons, a number of them poor widows, which he has either squandered or taken with him. It is not presumed that Mr. Meyers was cognizant of his intentions, or knows anything of his whereabouts."

THE charge of Judge Underwood, in Richmond, is receiving, as it deserves, severe criticisms from the Richmond press—which, though generally quite as open to censure, we think this time has, by the most unfortunate presence of this man, abundant reasons for complaint. The *Whig*, which of late has supported the policy of Congress, and is in the interest of the Republican cause, expresses itself with great warmth—too warmly, perhaps:

"We have no hesitation in saying that certain of its allusions to this city are the most wantonly mendacious and brutally libellious utterances that ever came from the bench of any civilized country. They sink their author beneath the fellowship of the lowest jail birds. It's impossible to give expression to the scorn and contempt which every honorable man must feel for the depravity of a heart that can engender calumnies so vile."

Wonderful Escape from the Grave.—An Indiana Soldier Two Days Under Ground.

A Washington correspondent of the Boston *Transcript* tells the following story, which makes huge drafts upon the reader's credulity: "A gentleman of New Albany, Floyd county, Indiana, a respectable and perfectly credible man, now a clerk in the Pension Bureau, Washington, was formerly a soldier in company F, 59th Indiana Volunteers. In 1862 he was stationed at St. Louis. While stationed there he was taken down with small pox, and apparently died; placed in a coffin and immediately entombed. As the soldier's friends was rather rapidly filled, five other coffins were soon piled on his. He lay there two and a half days, when he became somewhat conscious, and his first feeling was a suffocating sensation. His screams alarmed the German sentinel guarding his tomb, who, frightened, ran, dropping his gun, which was discharged. The report aroused Mr. M. still more to a sense of his condition and awful location. He redoubled his screams, bringing a rush of soldiers to the tomb, who soon got him out and relieved him from his terrible confinement. He is confident he should have suffocated in fifteen minutes. He says that though never conscious of his dreadful situation, his mind was always active and his sensations unspeakably delightful—seeming to float through scenes of surpassing beauty, amid strains of delicious music, such, to use his own words, as he has never heard since. For obvious reasons, he does not wish his name to be published, but your correspondent will vouch for character."

Letter from Hon. Senator Wilson.

The Hon. Henry Wilson, who is making a tour on the stump in the south, publishes in the *Independent* a letter, which, though no allusion is made to it, is nevertheless a reply to the cut letter of Thaddens Stevens in favor of confiscation and further terms. He says: "Congress having laid down conditions of final settlement, those conditions will be accepted." We quote the following:

"It is of vital importance that these States should pass into the control of men who are for the unity of the Republic, impartial freedom, equality of rights and equality before the law, and in fact, for the education of the people, and for their improvement and elevation. We of the North have won in the field, have won in the public councils. Our principles and policies which we deem vital to the country are embodied in the constitutional laws which statesmen of the South are to adopt. We fought, not to dishonor or degrade any, but to protect and lift up the oppressed. the poor, the industrious. The long contest, the fierce conflict with avarice and oppression, in the words of Jefferson, is over. The passions, prejudices and bitter memories engendered by the great struggle should be forgotten in the first day of the triumph of the right. Henceforth it was our duty to conquer, to man, and to God to meet the men of the South as fellow-citizens, to forget the past, and to do our duty, to demand its Algerous prosecution. When hostilities ceased, it was the National duty ever insisted on by the loyal people of the North, that the States which had attempted to destroy the Union should be forever prohibited from having any power in the National councils. Our fathers, from time to time, like their prototypes everywhere, expect principles and convictions to be abandoned to suit their special necessities. Lastly, there is the Radical Republican party in the field, with a platform and partial organization. It is the young, active, live party. It lacks money, organization, education, for it has a vital principle and its energy, sense enthusiasm. This will outnumber many advantages on the other side.

"There are probably about 80,000 votes in the first, 75,000 in the second, and 75,000 in the third. There ought to be 30,000 votes added to the third for success; and there will be, unless the movement represented by the *Whig* under take to control the most. In whites the majorities of both parties will probably carry the State. It is to be hoped that in some way there may be a fair exercise of power. Of course, not the sacrifice of any genuine man. It is probable that the latter covers the real cause of divergent political views. It would be very gratifying to the men who bowed before rebellion's storm to throw overboard the men who refused to, and so put them to the blush.

THE GETTYSBURG ASYLUM LOTTERY.—Attorney General Brewster pronounces the lottery scheme for the benefit of the Gettysburg Invalid Soldiers' Asylum a violation of the gambling laws established by long established laws of Pennsylvania, and warns the persons engaged in the scheme that he will resist the execution of it by prompt legal proceedings. The Philadelphia *Ledger* says: "For the information of newspapers at a distance that may not know just what scheme is referred to, we may state that it is the lottery recently advertised under the title of the "Gettysburg Asylum," which proposed the sale of tickets to the amount of $400,000 at the *first* drawing. Set of the $400,000 were to go to the asylum, and $200,000 into the hands of the "supervisors," but this generous style of distribution was not set forth in the advertisement. The scheme for raising the $400,000 with the supervisors contemplated *thirty* of these drawings, amounting in all to *twelve millions of dollars*, to be distributed on the general scale above referred to, viz: Eleven millions seven hundred thousand dollars to the lottery supervisors, and the meagre balance to the asylum. From this the purse of a distance may tell what sort of scheme it is that the Attorney General has pronounced illegal, vicious and criminal, and has interposed his official authority to stop."

Protestantism in Paris.

Lately a Protestant Chapel has opened in connection with the great Exhibition in Paris. It was an exceedingly interesting occasion and participated in by a large concourse of people, including many dignitaries. A place for dispensing the Bible has been erected, from which, says a correspondent, during the last fortnight seventy-five thousand copies of portions of the Bible have been given away at the stand, and clerks of the Society accept them, and many persons seem eager for them. The same writer goes on to say:

It is not wonderful, that in the metropolis of the Romish country, such prominence should be permitted to Christian men in their positive and zealous efforts for the diffusion of the blessed gospel; and that the Bible should be sold and given away in the face of all the nations, the banner not of the cross but of him who died upon the cross, should be unfurled in the midst of the capital of the most devoutly Eldest Son of the Papal Church! In the Providence of God, many of the most influential persons from all parts of the world, to whom it has been assigned to Protestants, and this the way has been provided for their reception, and for the general hands to avail themselves of the present favorable opportunity to circulate the Bible in the preservation of this!

I was told on Sunday that Pastor Fisch and a brother minister recently made a call upon Father Hyacinthe, the most eloquent preacher in Paris, and at his request Pastor Fisch offered prayer, the first knowing together; when they arose from their knees Father Hyacinthe embraced them both, and said, in my word, and said A man fervently in the whole. The Protestant Parks and Bible Society, which has interviews with some of the Protestant brethren, and had a meeting on Monday last, to see if they in their efforts to promote the better observance of the Sabbath in Paris, could not unite with us in our efforts and in our prayers for the conversion of souls. Nothing in the whole Gospel has been so obscured by the traditions of men, as it has been twelve days in Paris, and so much has been done to remove the impression that it will be, when fully arranged, the most wonderful collection and display which the world has ever seen.

Curiosities of the Paris Exposition.

The most attractive curiosities at the French Department of the Paris Exposition is a newly invented cravat pin. Everybody has seen how bells are rung in all the new hotels. Instead of pulling the bell and making it ring by an exertion of mechanical force, we press a small button in the wall; this is connected by an electric wire with a little alarm, the clapper of which keeps on jingling so long as the button is pressed. Lift the hand from the button and the alarm ceases. This principle a French jeweler has adapted to cravat pins. The knob of the pin is of various devices. It is a hare with its ears laid back in the manner of a cat in death's head with a loose under jaw, or a dog. Whoever chooses to wear such a pin has connected with it by a wire a small electrical battery, which he carries in his pocket. The wire is to be abandoned to suit their special necessities. Lastly, there is the Radical Republican party in the field, with a platform and partial organization. It is the young, active, live party. It lacks money, organization, education, for it has a vital principle and its energy, sense enthusiasm. This will outnumber many advantages on the other side.

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Virginia Politics.

[Richmond Correspondence Philadelphia Press.]

There seems to be three elements seething here in Virginia. First—And at the same time the most numerous and best organized, is the Southern Party, the radical rebels, "Passwits;" or "Submissionists," as the *Whig* calls them. They have nearly all the wealth, talent, and the press on their side. Second—There are those represented by the *Whig*—men who mostly yielded to the rebellion when it got under way, but who were not original secessionists, but the contrary. They are the minority element of the three, but, like their prototypes everywhere, expect principles and convictions to be abandoned to suit their special necessities. Lastly, there is the Radical Republican party in the field, with a platform and partial organization. It is the young, active, live party. It lacks money, organization, education, for it has a vital principle and its energy, sense enthusiasm. This will outnumber many advantages on the other side.

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Public Improvements for Private Benefits.

The sale of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, for the sum of $500,000, has been announced. The amount, says the Philadelphia *Ledger*, John W. Forney receives $200,000, a Mr. Lloyd, from Williamsport, Pa., now a clerk in the Clerk's office, House of Representatives, $45,000, and other persons connected with the enterprise, the balance. The object of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company, it is said, was to construct an air line road from Baltimore to Washington, and to Pennsylvania, with a branch to Washington. By this branch a new route would be opened from the National Capital to Baltimore and the North, and also to Philadelphia, in connection with the present branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad connecting those two cities. This promised an opposition, in comparison with which by half, a saving in distance of removal or control is quite an inconsiderable sum.

Power of a Horse's Scent.

"There is one perception that a horse possesses, that but little attention has been paid to, and that is the power of scent. With some horses it is as acute as with the dog; and for the benefit of those that have to drive nights such as physicians and others, this knowledge is valuable. I never knew it to fail, and I have ridden hundreds of miles dark nights; and in consideration of this power of scent this is my simple advice; never check your horse nights, but give him a free head, and you may rest assured that he will never get off the road, and will carry you expeditiously and safely. In regard to the power of scent in a horse, I once knew one of a pair that was stolen, and recovered mainly by the track being made out by his mate, and that after he had been absent six or eight hours."

The Coming Tide.

A New York letter says: The steamship agents are expecting an unprecedented foreign immigration from now till next autumn. At the offices of the packet ships, also, they tell the same story. "All Ireland will be here by the first of September," said a leading ship owner on Change this afternoon, in proof of which he exhibited lists of passengers engaged on the other side, for many weeks ahead. There are two or three steamers lying at the New York wharves to-day that have nearly every berth engaged for the return trip. The Erin, which arrived to-day, brought 950; the Teutonia, 647; the Albert, 325.

ONE of the most notable of the foreign news by mail, is that which relates to the tailors in London and Paris. In the former city there was a meeting of 8,000 men. They profess to have a large fund, and the masters, it is supposed, will have to submit. Tel

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1867.

JEFFERSON DAVIS must have felt a very large coal of fire resting on his head, when HORACE GREELEY, in open court, offered himself as his bail, the charge being treason, where of the punishment is death.

IT is now said that France is in no humor for war, and really desires peace. This, no doubt, is pretty near to the truth. But BISMARCK is quite ready for, if he does not really desire war. A year hence NAPOLEON will be better prepared, and his humor for that reason will have undergone a marked change. And so may Prussia's —and for the same reason.

OUR special Richmond dispatches will be read with interest. MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS and MR. HORACE GREELEY are the two most conspicuous objects in the scenes described. We don't wish to be understood as holding them in the same estimation. Mr. GREELEY had a right to go DAVIS's bail, but we suspect DAVIS wished it had been somebody else. It seems to be settled that DAVIS will have a speedy trial, when the Chief Justice will preside, on the charge of high treason. After having been confined more than two years he has been set at liberty, soon to be arraigned on the charge on which he should have been tried long ago. No one supposes the chances of having justice done have been improved by the delay.

A CAPITAL plot for a novel founded on facts, with plenty of war incident, and the romance of politics in it, has been furnished by the late events at Fortress Monroe and in Richmond. MR. DAVIS, of course, must be the principal character and MR. GREELEY the second. The scene of the capture will have its appropriate counterpart in the scene of the Court. The President of the Confederacy will pass through the downward phases of political crime to the prison, to be escorted thence into the area of personal freedom by the veteran champion of emancipation. The whole will present an extraordinary mixture of the tragic and the farcical, in the political action of men and in the administration of Republican Government. Had MR. BEECHER but delayed his engagement till now!

WE appear to have been slightly mistaken in supposing that the success of the eight hour law had killed it. The gentlemen who have made an easy living out of hard workingmen, by speechifying, for a year or two past, in favor of the law as the making up of working men, are not satisfied to give up their good position so readily. Therefore, although they have got all they asked for, and all they said was necessary, they are trying now to start another *ignis fatuus* for their future capital. It is the formation of an eight hour party. As party is a great thing to have, they seem to anticipate another era of success among the workingmen. We imagine their past history will not be greatly helpful to their securing the confidence of the class they have discarded before.

MR. DAVIS must notice something of a change in Richmond, the Capital of his former dominions, since he saw that city last. The military features of the place have undergone a decided alteration, and the condition of the colored race a scarcely less remarkable one. MR. DAVIS has, no doubt, observed both these changes during his short stay in the city. Should he visit Libby and Castle Thunder, he will notice a decided improvement, since the days when these famous institutions were under his superintendence. Amid all the changes that time and good government and a higher civilization have made, MR. DAVIS will be gratified to find one thing substantially the same as it was when there was a Confederacy, and that is the spirit of the Richmond press.

IT excites strange feelings, to read the political articles and the local news columns, in some of the Southern papers. In the former, the reader would get the impression that the Northern people were the most hateful oppressors, trifling with the rights and even with the sorrows of their fellow men in the South. From the latter he would learn, that the sufferings of the poor and the famishing were pitied and relieved by the hand of Northern charity, that food was sent to them to save them from starvation, and that the only condition accompanying the gift was, that it should be distributed to the needy, without distinction of color or of antecedent history or character. Some, too, of the more rabid partisan papers, it must be admitted, seldom allude to the sufferings that exist, or to the means by which they are relieved or mitigated. But what can be expected of such insane votaries of sectionalism and slavery, who, to their hereditary haughtiness, add the hatred and bitterness engendered by their righteous defeat?

THE dispatches say that when the balling process had been gone through, the people of Richmond felt so grateful to MR. GREELEY that they would have conferred on him any office in their gift. To say nothing of this curious manifestation of human impulse, this sort of thing must have been not a little distasteful to JEFF. who had a right to expect all the honors. Let no man—no one in Richmond or all the South—think that MR. GREELEY has any other feeling for DAVIS's offense than of utter detestation. It was for justice he stood; and according to his view it was but just DAVIS should have bail. MR. GREELEY has been consistent in demanding for him a trial or liberty. Now that he has been gratified, it remains for the court and jury to complete the work of justice. If DAVIS, the day he was captured, was guilty of treason, he is no less guilty of that crime to-day. If, as the head of the rebellion, he committed not treason, what name shall be given to his offense? If it was treason at any time, is it not treason now? The essence of justice has not changed during the two years of mourning for the dead, slain in battle waged to save the Republic he would have destroyed.

A PHILADELPHIA paper complains that the trial and conviction of WINNEMORE, the murderer, was too speedy. The murder—which was one of peculiar barbarity —was committed on the 25th of April. On the 10th of May the culprit was convicted of the crime. The guilt was clearly made out, and the hanging—if it were to take place at all—could not be too soon. The paper to which we refer, while objecting—unreasonably we think—to this speedy process of justice, does make a good point when it refers to the fact that the court docket is weighed down with old cases, and that procrastination, not expedition, has been the rule in the courts. Just here, we fancy, a grave evil is touched upon. Men before committing crimes canvass their chances; and it is not to be doubted that the chronic delay in the administering of justice—the repeated postponements—and in some cases the final defeat of justice, are among the very first things that enter into the calculation. Let the case be reversed—let detection, if possible, be made more certain; at any rate, after detection, let punishment speedily follow; in view of the prevalence of crime, let it be severe as well as speedy, and a diminution of crime will be seen at once. Here is something for the ministers of justice to think of. There are grave admonitions in the signs of the times touching crime and punishment, and we feel to applaud, rather than condemn, the example set by the Philadelphia Court.

IT is interesting to observe the responses on the part of the Republican press, and public men speaking for the party, to the letter of THADDEUS STEVENS to the Senator WILSON to task for sentiments uttered on the stump in the South. What MR. STEVENS was particular to say was, that the present Law of Reconstruction was not a finality, even though the South fully accepted its terms, but that other and more severe ones would be pushed on the South—among the rest "mild confiscation." With very inconsiderable exceptions, there has been no approving response to Mr. STEVENS's letter, but almost universal dissent from it. The effect of a manifesto of this kind from a man who has been so conspicuous in his efforts to shapen the policy of Reconstruction, has nowhere been favorable. In the South, in particular, it has been otherwise, for it has embarrassed the labors not only of Mr. WILSON, but the supporters of the policy of Congress in general—an embarrassment that has been very materially relieved, however, by the prompt and all-but unanimous dissent to which we have referred.

Although a careful survey of the labors of Congress, in devising a way to bring the revolted States into their proper relations as members of this Union, will disclose the fact that the propositions of Mr. STEVENS have been seldom agreed to, yet what has been regarded as his extreme policy though not succeeding, has doubtless exerted a favorable influence in holding Congress and public sentiment up to a line that included within its circle the ends for which the war was prosecuted. That line, once established, however, was not to be disturbed; to do so would be a breach of faith, and the postponement of Reconstruction under circumstances that would work injuriously to the great interests of the country. In proposing to do so, Mr. STEVENS was clearly wrong, and taking for his guide and instruction well-developed public sentiment he himself must perceive this and be ready to relinquish the idea of pushing for new measures.

THE LATEST OUTRAGE.

The announcement that JEFFERSON DAVIS has been released is received with divided feelings. By those who never acknowledged the crime of rebellion it is regarded as a tardy act of justice; by those who care little about the vindication of the outraged law, it is accepted as a commendable act of mercy; but by those who keep in lively remembrance the fearful history of the rebellion, and the wicked part enacted therein by this arch-traitor, it is deplored as an insult to the majesty of the law and a burning outrage upon the memory of the loyal victims of his fiendish heart. It matters but little what the people may think and say upon this subject, so long as the judicial authority of the land has sent the felon free into the world.

We cannot but feel that the farce of JEFFERSON DAVIS's imprisonment and indictment is almost ended—that although he may possibly be required to go through the forms of a trial for his life, there will be no precedent in American law declaring rebellion to be treason. If the one man by whose wicked genius the rebellion was planned, organized and armed; by whose counsel and authority immense armies were raised, and by whose orders and directions a fatal blow was aimed at the life of the nation, be not a traitor, then our wide domain holds not within its extend borders one disloyal man.

What claim that the government was bound to recognize had JEFFERSON DAVIS to be released on bail? Treason is not ordinarily a bailable offense, and on that score he had no legal right. On mercy, because he had been imprisoned for two years, he had no claim. The horrors of Andersonville, Salisbury, Belle Isle and Libby are too fresh in the memory to justify such a plea. To-day an unfortunate man in a neighboring county will lose his life for taking the life of a fellow man, in whose behalf the right to be bailed was not claimed, because the right does not exist. Yet JEFFERSON DAVIS, who attempted the overthrow of our government, by whose orders scores of thousands of lives were taken, cities depopulated, fields wasted, countless numbers of wives and children widowed and orphaned, and thousands upon thousands of brave men tortured to death in prison pens by exposure, disease and starvation, is set at liberty upon an insignificant bail bond! This act is particularly offensive when it is remembered that while DAVIS in his imprisonment was supplied with all the luxuries and delicacies of life, warm, comfortable and convenient appartments, and a heavily laden table, it was by his orders that thousands of our brave soldiers in filth, wretchedness and misery, in rags and tatters, in starvation and thirst, with bodies diseased and emaciated, and with brain frenzied, were slowly and hellishly tortured to death. The contrast is fearful! The merciless crying for mercy, and he who gave no mercy gets it all!

In any view we regard this matter it is little else than an insult to the loyal sentiment of the land. If it be really intended to give the traitor a trial next month as is alleged, we can perceive no necessity for releasing him upon bail at this time; but if it be not intended to try him, as may turn out to be the case, then his release is but a part of a plan that President JOHNSON must undoubtedly have had from the beginning of his Presidential career, to secure the traitor's unconditional release.

It was a common belief among loyal people that rebellion was treason, and that treason was punishable with death. It was also believed that DAVIS, if ever apprehended, should suffer the penalty of his crime. When captured, it was supposed that he would be speedily tried; but in this the people were disappointed, without having, to this day, a reasonable explanation of the delay in his trial. Mrs. SURRATT and others were tried before a military commission for the murder of the Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy, and almost before the ink with which the finding was recorded was dry, four of them were in eternity. DAVIS procured the murder of tens of thousands of the officers, soldiers and seamen of the same army and navy, and was equally deserving to be hung upon the finding of a military commission. The keeper of Andersonville prison suffered a like fate upon the finding of a like tribunal, for the inhuman treatment of prisoners of war in obedience to the orders of his superior officer, and yet JEFFERSON DAVIS, that superior officer, is virtually a free man to-day and forever.

We regard DAVIS personally as of no importance; but as the Chief of the Rebellion we have always deemed it essential that he should be tried and convicted as a traitor, in order that we might have the principle established for which we sacrificed so much during the war and since, that rebellion is treason. Whether upon such a conviction he should suffer a traitor's fate or not we cared but little—the verdict of an American Jury and the opinion of an American Court would have been an eternal warning against the crime of treason. Until such a trial, JEFFERSON DAVIS should have been detained in prison under indictment for treason.

THE HISTORY.

Two years and a few days more have passed since ABRAHAM LINCOLN was President of the United States, and JEFFERSON DAVIS was the head of an extensive and malignant insurrection against the United States. At about the same period, in the past, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, having seen the bloody and terrible insurrection brought to a close, and, to a large extent, through his own faithful and patriotic efforts, was assassinated by a hand deeply in the interest of the rebellion; while JEFFERSON DAVIS, after a cowardly flight from the scenes of his public crimes, was captured, in the disguise of woman's clothing. Mr. LINCOLN has lain two years in a grave honored by the tears of a redeemed nation, while DAVIS has enjoyed an elegant retirement at Fortress Monroe, abhorred and spurned as the chief traitor, the persistent rebel, the perjured public officer, the barbarous murderer of prisoners. Mr. LINCOLN sleeps in the grave where a nation has laid him, and where a nation's grief still laments his untimely fall. And Mr. DAVIS comes forth from his retirement hailed by those whose bad cause he served, while representatives of eccentric politics and crack-brained philanthropy hasten from the North to attach their names to a process sure to become historical—the freeing, by legal forms, of the man whose wanton treachery and obstinate persistence in prosecuting insurrectionary war have caused ten times as much bloodshed and misery as all the wars previously waged in this country.

The part played by Mr. G. SMITH excites no surprise. Mr. GREELEY's is not so easily accounted for. Both these gentlemen have figured largely, though somewhat differently, in the cause of old-fashioned abolitionism. Mr. GREELEY, besides doing good service in the Union interest, has, during the war, indulged his eccentricity in sundry odd flings of speech and action. But his apparent eagerness to be on the bail-bond of Mr. DAVIS is probably to be ascribed to the same feeling that prompted him in the outset of the war to favor quiet and peaceful acquiescence in secession, and, in the progress of the conflict, to hold peace conferences with the rebels at Niagara. It is probably that idiosyncracy of Mr. GREELEY which seeks its gratification in odd and out of the way methods of philanthropy. If the movement by which the greatest criminal on the continent is released from custody is designed to cheat justice of its dues and the law of its proper administration, or if it shall have this effect by exempting him from trial, it will raise—as it should—a storm of indignation throughout the North, since it can be interpreted in no other way than as a gross insult both to the majesty of the law, and to the loyalty of the Northern people, shown in putting down, at immense cost of life and money, JEFFERSON DAVIS's rebellion.

THE NIMBLE SIXPENCE.

There was a method of trade which many thought profitable when it was in use. It consisted in selling at moderate, or, we may say, small profits, and making up by the extent of business for the inconsiderable profits of individual sales. Alas! that we should have to say there *was* such a method —*Illum fuit*—and with the implication sad to all purchasers, that it is past and gone. The "nimble sixpence" that then characterized that style of selling, or, as it was proverbially and more fully expressed, the "small profits and quick returns," have become historical for years bygone, and a cent-per-cent style, or something nearly approaching it, has had a popular run.

In some trades and in some localities the new method or fashion, for such it is, has run itself out of breath, and a pause and a rest and a change have ensued, with some promise of a return to the "ancient and honorable" style of buying and selling. A New York paper informs us that "even on Broadway a number of large retail business houses have lately adopted the principle of small profits, expecting, of course, large sales." This is a result of lessons learned from experience. For some time past, it is now admitted, enormous profits have been demanded for everything bought in Broadway, until "an incalculable amount of trade has been driven out of Broadway, that might easily have been kept there."

It is not in Broadway, nor in New York alone, that this policy has produced this result. And it is not there alone that the return to a "principle of moderate profits" would be followed by an increase of business, and of aggregate gains. The slackness of trade very generally complained of is owing to an evident indisposition in the community to make purchases beyond what are absolutely necessary. This strong tendency to economy and retrenchment can be counteracted in no way more surely or more safely, than by holding out the inducement of moderate profits on the part of sellers. This appears to be the sober second thought of the dealers in Broadway, who, for sagacity and shrewdness, are generally safe models to follow.

ANOTHER CAUTION.

The death of two girls, by suffocation, at a boarding school in Eastern Pennsylvania, is attributed to an escape into their room of coal gas from a stove pipe. It appears that eight servant girls connected with the establishment slept in one not very large room which had but one door and but one window, both of which were shut. It would hardly be necessary to bring in carbon acid from a stove pipe to produce the casualty, since the breathing of so many persons in a close room, for the long hours of the night, would furnish enough of the article to produce the sad result.

That such an arrangement for sleeping should exist in an institution of learning is surprising. They surely have Physiology as one of the studies in their curriculum, and it teaches something, we imagine, about the consumption of oxygen and the production of carbonic gas, in the process of respiration. It suggests some cautions about close rooms, and the necessity of ventilation. Chemistry is probably one of the studies, too, which does not reckon carbon acid as one of the supporters of animal life, but, on the contrary, as no less fatal to those shut up in it than water is to those held under it. It is amazing that, after so many fatal cases of suffocation by bad air in sleeping rooms, people are still found so utterly careless about it. We, therefore, refer to this case in this way, to warn our readers against sleeping in close, unventilated rooms. The "night air," so much dreaded by many, is less noxious, as it is under the clear canopy of the sky, than as it often is in close, crowded sleeping rooms, where every pair of lungs is pouring out carbonic acid gas by the half gallon at every breath. We hope our readers will take warning, and, as they cannot conveniently stop breathing while asleep, they are advised to let in some outside air, to drive out or at least dilute the noxious gas. Educational institutions are especially exhorted to consult their own text books on the advantages to health of breathing atmospheric air, rather than those deadly gases, especially those exhaled from the animal body.

Independent Order of Good Templars.

Rev. James A. Davidson, the State Lecturer for this popular and prosperous temperance organization, has organized forty-one Lodges of the Order in the northwestern counties since January, and he has calls for his services from various sections that he hopes to comply with in due time. He lectured in two counties last Saturday, and organized a strong Lodge in each—at 2 P. M., in the Presbyterian Church, Centerville, Crawford county, and in the evening of the same day at Picasantville, in Venango county. The previous evening, he organized a Lodge at Hydetown, Crawford county. The principal towns of the Oil Region now have flourishing Lodges. Mr. Davidson requests us to state that he has been ordered by the Grand Lodge officers to visit the county towns in the counties of Butler, Washington, Green and Fayette, and to lecture and organize at each place. If he succeeds in this, there will not be a county of the State represented in the annual session of the Grand Lodge. We bespeak for this hard-working and successful lecturer—who, by the way, is an old typo—the hearty co-operation of the press in the several localities he is soon to visit. The temperance cause is one in which the good of all parties and creeds are deeply interested, and it is to be lamented that those most in need of the pledge are the last to move in efforts of reformation. Good people who need nothing of this kind have to take the work in hand, and take by the hand the erring and the wayward and lead them to the brighter and better path. We wish well to all temperance efforts.

IT is represented that the prospect for raising crops this season on the bottom lands of the Mississippi is quite discouraging. The New Orleans *Price Current* says fences in very many instances have been swept away, mules, and and other stock, scattered or entirely lost, and, above all, the laborers who had been employed to cultivate the lands have, most of them, been compelled to find new and distant homes. In the lower portion of Louisiana, the destruction caused by the floods is almost without precedent. Many planters, we fear, will be entirely ruined in their pecuniary affairs, and it will take a long time to enable even the most favored among them to recuperate. The planters on the left bank of the river have so far not been disturbed by crevasses, and we learn that, as a general thing, wherever the fields have not been overflowed, the young cane looks as promising as could be expected considering the remarkably cold and backward season which we have had up to this time.

A nice old gentleman of seventy-three was to be married recently in Springfield, Mass., but the lady failed to arrive from Wisconsin on the day appointed. A second day was fixed, and a second time was he disappointed. A third day was set, and then the bride appeared. The bridegroom, in a delightful state of palpitation, almost flew to the clergyman's, but found he was absent from the city. However, in the evening the clerical gentleman returned, and the twain, after all their vexatious disappointments, were duly made "one flesh." The bride is forty-seven.

RICHMOND.

JEFF. DAVIS AT LARGE.

His Discharge and Arrest for Treason.

His Release on giving $100,000 Bail for Trial at Next Term.

Horace Greeley, John Minor Botts and 18 Others his Bondsmen.

Davis and Family to Visit Niagara Falls.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

RICHMOND, VA., May 13.

There was quite a crowd this morning on the street in front of Davis's hotel and the court house, but no demonstration or disorder. The court room was crowded. At eleven fifteen, General Burton entered the court with Davis, and after remarks by Messrs. O'Connor, Evarts, Chandler and Judge Underwood, he delivered Davis according to the order of the writ. The court then discharged Davis, who was immediately served with a warrant on an indictment for treason, and taken into custody by the United States Marshal.

The case was then brought to the attention of the Court, who fixed the trial for the next term. Remarks were made by Messrs. O'Connor, Evarts and Chandler, with reference to bail, and the amount, and character of the bondsmen. Remarks by the Court followed, which fixed the bail at one hundred thousand dollars, to be given by twenty different persons, half of the amount by residents of this Judicial District, and the other half by any resident of the United States. Judge Underwood paid a high compliment to General Burton for the humane manner in which he treated Davis while in prison. Judge Underwood also said he had received a letter from Chief Justice Chase, who would be present at the next term of Court, which will convene on the 25th inst.

When the announcement was made by Court of its intention to take bail, there was no demonstration, but all present were evidently pleased with the result. When the Court called for three instead of two bail, Horace Greeley, who was present all the while, rose, amid loud murmurs of satisfaction by all present, and walked around where Davis was sitting with his counsel, shook hands with him, and announced himself as one bondsman. Mrs. Davis was not in Court.

The arrangement of the sureties was then commenced, each one coming up to the Clerk's desk, and signing his name. They are for five thousand dollars each, as follows: Horace Greeley, Augustus Schell, Chas. O'Conor, New York; H. McFarland, Richard Burton Maxwell, Isaac Davenport, Thos. R. Cruise, Abram Warwick, Richmond; Horace Clark, Henry Dwight, David K. Jackson, Gustavus A. Myers, W. M. Evarts, James Thomas, Richmond, Va.; Wm. Allen, John Minor Botts, Thos. W. Dazewell, Thos. R. Price.

The Court then commanded the Marshal to discharge the prisoner, which was done, amid cheering and congratulations. Davis, his counsel, Greeley and others, then proceeded to the hotel in carriages, and as they appeared on the street, the dense crowd received them with cheers. The excitement throughout the city, the result, and Mr. Greeley could be now easily elected to any position within the gift of the citizens of Richmond.

It is said that, after sojourning a short while here, Davis, with his family, will proceed to Niagara for his health. The Court room in which the case was heard this morning, was the same that during the rebellion as executive headquarters.

The approaching State Convention is now the subject matter of interest.

By Associated Press.

RICHMOND, May 13.—The United States Court was packed this morning. A military guard was placed around it, and a strong police force inside. About twenty ladies were among the spectators, also fifty negroes. At eleven o'clock Davis was brought in and took a seat next the prisoner's box, with General Burton and the United States Marshal. A servant accompanied him; Davis, sitting by the open window, remarked: "It is a little cold, isn't it?" and he was removed to a seat near his counsel, in front of the Judge.

General Burton's return to the writ of *habeas corpus* was read, and the Judge complimented General Burton on obeying the laws, and remarked that he would not hold the servant of the Marshal immediately served on him a bench warrant, to answer the Norfolk indictment. Mr. O'Connor spoke of Mr. Davis's long imprisonment and feeble health, and asked that he be bailed. There being no opposition on the part of the prosecution, who fixed the amount of bail at $100,000, the Judge announced the conditions of the bail, and stated at the same time that the responsibility of the delay rested upon the Government and not upon the Court.

The District Attorney said one-half of the amount of bail must be given by citizens residing in the State of Virginia. The sureties then came forward. Horace Greeley being among the first, followed by Mr. Schell, of New York, and Mr. Clark, of Philadelphia, and others. A number of gentlemen residing in Virginia, offered their names as bail.

Davis was congratulated by several friends, but there was no demonstration or noise of any kind. After giving bail to appear at the November term of the Court, Davis was taken by a coach to the Spottswood House.

BY MAIL.

Re-Entree of Davis to Richmond—How the People Acted—Scenes at the Hotel —His Changed Appearance, &c., &c.

The Richmond correspondent of the *Sunday Herald*, giving a description of the journey from Fortress Monroe to Richmond, concludes the account as follows:

At a little before 6 o'clock the boat drew near to the wharf at Rockett's. The cry, "Here she is," started the listless and the drowsy to their feet, and the dense crowd on the wharf, blacksmith and the army of reporters to the water's edge, to catch the first glimpse. Negroes swarmed on top of omnibuses and on top of sheds, or stood up in carriages, while on the wharf there was a general jostling and stumbling over all sorts of impediments. Guards were stationed at the forward gangway of the boat, and just as this manœuvre had drawn the greater part of the crowd that way, a plank was laid down aft. Mrs. Davis, leading her husband, with Mrs. Hon. James Lyon, and preceded by Mr. Robert Ould, who led the way to the carriages. Some other ladies and gentlemen followed, and in an instant more was in and driving away at full speed. Mr. Davis, General Burton, Mr. Burton Harrison, and Mr. Cooper, went in one carriage.

The crowd that now thronged around scarcely had time to make a rush before the whole party were whirling toward the city. Away went the carriages, away at full speed went the crowd of mounted artillerymen, half-lost in the dust raised by the vehicles, and away after them, rushing, hooting, hallooing, went a rabble of half-frantic negroes, men, women and children. Large numbers of these, headed and doubled the cordon of guards on a high bluff, in the streets and up the whole length of the sidewalk, and, as the carriages drove furiously by, these took up the shouting and joined in the pursuit, running madly in the attempt to keep up and catch a sight of the prisoner.

When the cortege wheeled into Main street the excitement became tenfold increased in numbers, and the windows, doors, and every available point was occupied by ladies and gentlemen along the Spottswood Hotel. It was said by those who had been present at the scenes who stood in single and double file along the sidewalk, a feeling of silent sympathy with the man who, though once a captive, proud and powerless, was once their proud and cherished representative.

The three carriages conveying Mr. Davis and the party who accompanied him drove along the street at a most rapid pace, followed by the cavalry escort, with flashing sabres, who rattled over the stony pavement with a terrific clash of hoofs, clouds of dust and a din of noise. Also in the rear of the fast moving procession an immense crowd of men and boys, principally negroes, followed, making no other demonstration than their disturbance of the dust and the usual spectacle, in this quiet city, of what appeared to be half the population rushing through the streets at a panic striken rate.

The city was almost deserted, the stores on Main street were occupied by fashionably dressed ladies, while the store entrances were in every instance thronged by the leading citizens of Richmond. If the negro predominated, it is owing to the fact that the locality at which Mr. Davis landed is inhabited in a great measure by negroes; and having learned the fact of the arrival of the prisoner, the procession in large force set out for its destination. The whites, as a general thing, stood quietly by, and with a peculiarly blended expression of half sympathy, half sorrow, looked on. The negro, peculiarly, manifested the attention of a considerable number of persons in the streets adjacent to Main street, who were totally ignorant of what was going on, and who, seeing the dense throng, joined in with thoroughfare of the city, adding to the already great crowd in motion.

Mr. Davis alighted from his carriage in front of the Spottswood Hotel, his bearing calm, resolute and unchanged, and passed across the sidewalk between a dense row of citizens, who elevated their hats, and with silent deference raised their heads, while the prisoner, with his hands crossed, and wearing a smile of courteous recognition of the compliment paid him, walked into the hotel, and passed quickly up to the room prepared for his reception.

Shortly afterwards Mrs. Davis, accompanied by Mr. James Lyons, descended from her carriage, and passed through a file of police into the ladies' entrance of the hotel, where the gentlemen present, policemen included, uncovering their heads in silence on her appearance. The ladies of the Spottswood Hotel, and the ladies in the windows of the building where the bazaar has been held, and many faces, suffused with tears, were clearly discernible among the fair spectators. Gazing further out of the windows of the hotel might be observed occasionally some beautiful southern ladies, clad in black, looking sad and tearful, and ever and anon sobbing audibly over the peculiar character of Mr. Davis's visit.

This evening, about eight o'clock, Mr. Davis, at his own request, removed to his old apartments in the hotel, which soon became a rendezvous for a select circle of his old friends and acquaintances. The Rev. Dr. Minnigerode, who preached the last sermon which Mr. Davis listened to in the South on that memorable Sunday when Lee's army retreated from Richmond, called upon him and had a most interesting interview of about half an hour. The Doctor was astonished at the change which had taken place in the appearance of Mr. Davis. He hardly believed that two years of imprisonment could bleach the captive's hair so white or produce that pallor and emaciation which Mr. Davis so visibly exhibited.

THE SCAFFOLD.

EXECUTION OF ROBERT FOGLER

For the Murder of Robert W. Dinsmore.

Brief History of the Murder and Subsequent Trials.

Dying Confession of Fogler, in Full.

PARTICULARS OF THE EXECUTION

Wednesday afternoon at half-past one o'clock, Robert Fogler, convicted of the murder of Robert W. Dinsmore, was hanged at Washington, Pa. The facts elicited at the trial were published at the time in the COMMERCIAL, but as four months have elapsed and the matter may be forgotten, we append a brief

History of the Murder.

On the night of December 4th, 1866, about ten o'clock, two persons called at the house of Mr. Robert W. Dinsmore, in Hopwell township, five miles north of the borough of Washington, and rapped on one of the doors. Mr. Dinsmore and another, the evening of the 4th of December the fugitive arrived in Wellsburg, West Virginia, and put up at the Logan House. The hotel, for permission to remain there during the night. Mr. Washington declined, but they were recognized by a gentleman who knew him, and immediately left the house, and the fugitive and his wife were conveyed to Washington and lodged in jail.

Fogler's Trial.

At the February term of the Court of Oyer and Termination of Washington county, Pa., Judge Acheson on the Bench, Fogler was arraigned for the murder of Mr. Dinsmore. The prisoner was defended by Messrs. Jame. B. Roth, A. J. Hamilton and Woods Little. The prosecution was conducted by Messrs. Charles Cornelius, Esqr., District Attorney of the county, assisted by Harvey D. Sankirk, Esq., of Wellsburg, Va., and W. P. Fetterman, Esq., of this city. The trial occupied five days, and the jury, after a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. A motion for a new trial was made by counsel for the prisoner, and argued before the Court at Washington county, which was overruled by Judge Acheson, who sentenced R. Roth, Esq., to be hanged on the 17th day of May, 1867. An appeal was taken on a writ of error. The case was carried to the Supreme Court, when the decision of the lower Court was affirmed.

Trial of Montgomery.

Montgomery's trial commenced on Monday, the 25th of February, and the case did not go to the jury until Saturday, the 2d of March. The attending the case with much interest, and the prisoner, by his youthful appearance, and the prominent position held in the community by his relatives, conspired to render the trial one of unusual interest. The court room was crowded daily by people, many of whom had been attracted from a distance. Messrs. O. Ross Marshall, Thomas Bradley, Thomas Hagan, Harvey Hart, Truman Brady and Hon. T. Stinson, Esqrs., were the counsel for the defense, and Messrs. Cornelius, H. S. Vankirk and N. P. Fetterman were the counsel for the prosecution. The efforts of the defense were mainly to the proving of an alibi for the elder brother of the prisoner, who resided at his father's house, in Cross Creek, and who left the house at 9 o'clock on the night of the murder, and had been seen returning during the night. The alibi was brought into Court at the request of the counsel for the defense, by a number of witnesses, who testified that at eight o'clock on saturday evening, and a little after, they saw the elder brother at the house of Mrs. Dinsmore, and that he remained there until 9 o'clock, when he left for home. He was then seen by a number of persons, who testified to his presence at home during the night. The prisoner was then discharged by proclamation.

Demeanor of the Prisoner.

Upon the conclusion of the trial and after the sentence of death had been pronounced upon Fogler, he apparently resigned himself to his fate, and endeavored to make the best of it. Rev. Dr. Herr and W. B. Watkins, pastors of Methodist Churches of the borough, who were selected by him as his spiritual advisers, visited him daily for several months past, and appear fully assured that he died a contrite and penitent man. During the past few days the prisoner has been in a state of feverish excitement, and appear fully assured that he died a contrite and penitent man. During the past few days the prisoner has been in a state of feverish excitement, and on Tuesday night they remained in his cell and labored to calm his fears. He passed a restless night, and the prisoner slept but little. He was in the corridor at an early hour in the morning they rested, and the prisoner slept but little. He was in the corridor at an early hour in the morning, conversing with the jailor and others, and on Tuesday night they remained in his cell, and held religious services. About two o'clock

A DAY WITH ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

What he Thinks of the Rebellion.

THE PART HE TOOK IN IT.

"Mack" prints in the Cincinnati *Commercial* an entertaining account of a visit to the home of Alexander H. Stephens, the principal part of which we give below:

"Returning from the farm, Mr. Stephens talked freely of the late war. The South, he believed, made two fearful mistakes: First, in going to war at all, and secondly, in the object for which they went to war. It was a great absurdity to think that there could be such a thing as permanent separation of the two sections. He was opposed to secession in the first place; but when he could not resist that—when Georgia went out, and he, as a State's rights man, felt bound to go with Georgia, then he wanted to fight only on terms of reconstruction, such as would cement the country on a better basis than it ever stood. Jeff. Davis and the fire-eaters fought for Southern independence, and ruined the South in doing so. I called his attention to reports in Southern newspapers during the war, that he, Stephens, had declared his opposition to reconstruction upon any terms. They were all false, he said, and he was sorry to see in Pollard's Lost Cause, which he considered a wretchedly bad history of the war, what pretended to be extracts from a speech made by him at Charlotte, North Carolina, after his unsuccessful attempt to confer with Lincoln at Fortress Monroe (before the Hampton Roads conference). In which he is represented as saying that under no circumstances would he consent to reconstruction. He never said any such thing. He was a reconstructionist, he said, from the first day of the war till the last. Referring to politics in the North during the war, he expressed his regret that the peace party had not been successful in 1864. He thought the Democrats made a mistake in nominating a war man. If a straight-out peace man had been nominated he might have been elected, and the reconstructionists of the South would then have made terms for peace and reunion with them. "But," said I, "in the North the people could not be pursuaded that the peace party was not a secession party." "There's where you made a great mistake," said Mr. Stephens. "Jeff. Davis wanted Lincoln elected; he told me so. The reconstructionists of the South wanted you of the North to elect a peace man, so that when they have overthrown the Davis war party of the South, and made terms of reunion without any difficulty." I replied that I thought if the people of the North had had any assurance that the election of a peace Democrat would have restored the Union on honorable terms they would have elected one. But the Democratic party of the North had made itself obnoxious as a secession party; its leaders had been to a great degree instrumental in bringing the war about by assuring the Southern fire-eaters of a fire in the rear party, and while they might prefer union to secession they certainly preferred secession to war, while the Republican party preferred Union to any thing else, and were willing to keep up the war in years to secure it. Besides, if there were so many reconstructionists in the South, why did they not make their influence felt—why not make overtures to the Republican party of the North? Mr. Stephens replied, "There were a great many of us, but we couldn't get the helm. One man at the helm of a ship has more power than five hundred amidships. But, if the first desire for peace had come from the North we would have been strengthened so that we could have turned down the permanent separation party. All we wanted was for you of the North to show that you wanted peace and reunion; and then we could have responded. Take the State of Georgia, for instance. While there was an immense majority in favor of keeping up the war as long as the Federal army was in the field against us, there was a great majority in favor of reconstruction, but they wanted the first indications to come from the North."

Speaking of the conflict of the war on the the part of the South, Mr. Stephens criticised it as extremely unwise. It ought never to have been an offensive war, and if the resources of the South had been properly economised, instead of being wasted in aggressive battles, the North would certainly have been worried into giving up the contest. Then in a few years the South would have gone back to the Union without a thought, for the dream of a separate nationality would soon have burned itself out. The great error of the North, he thought, was in adopting the policy of coercion. If South Carolina had been permitted to go, and the other States with her, secession would soon have been at an end. The South was getting very sick of it, when the call for 75,000 troops came out. A tariff of twenty per cent. on the cotton thing produced in the country had been levied by the Montgomery Congress, and it had caused a rise in prices and great discontent. One thing after another had occurred to persuade the people that secession was a foolish undertaking, but when troops were called for to invade the South the tide immediately turned the other way, and the secessionists were supplied every where. He regarded Jeff. Davis as a man of kind heart, who meant well in what he did, but was not fitted for the head of a nation in a time like this of the late war. He would listen to no advice, and heed no warning. Because he wanted to succeed, he thought therefore he must, and he had no idea of giving up the contest until Lee telegraphed him that the lines were broken, and that he must evacuate Richmond. The capture of Jeff. Davis, Mr. Stephens thought a great *coup pas* for the North; better a good deal have let him go wherever he wanted to go. I asked where Davis was going when he was captured. Mr. Stephens said he did'nt know—he doubted if Davis knew himself. He seemed to him to be running about like a gadfly in a stable, after the boys had taken his eyes out—bobbing up and down, running against everything and hitting everything, utterly unconscious of what he was doing or where he was going. He believed the government would release Davis without any trial. The Supreme Court decision in the injunction cases would have an important bearing on the trial. If the injunction was not granted, he could not see how Davis could be tried for treason—for the refusal would convey with it the assertion that the Southern States were not States of the Union, and therefore their citizens could not have been guilty of treason in rebelling. This seemed to him to be the light in which Charles O'Conor, who was counsel in both cases, viewed it.

I remained at Mr. Stephens' residence that evening and during the next day until train time. He expressed great wonder when I told him of my intended departure, and begged me "stay a week and see the country," or, in any event, to "come back the same way," and call to see him again. I spent Friday evening in conversation with him, and found him the most delightful and inexhaustible talker I had ever listened to. Many of the events connected with the war, with which I was already familiar, he related to me with such an interesting and attractive manner that I forgot I had ever known anything of them, and listened to them as to something entirely new and startling. He spoke of the Hampton Roads conference as having been consented to by Jeff. Davis only as a thwart another proposition looking to peace and reunion. The Confederate Congress was about to pass a joint resolution in favor of a cessation of hostilities, for the purpose of calling a national convention to settle all existing differences. Davis wanted to defeat this, by making the Southern people believe that the North would accept no terms but an unconditional surrender, and this he thought the Hampton Roads conference would accomplish. Mr. Stephens on his return from Hampton Roads felt convinced that the Southern people were played to fit by Jeff. Davis so, but Davis wouldn't believe it. He soon after started for his home in Crawfordsville, where he remained until arrested by Wilson's cavalry, and taken to Fort Warren. He is now engaged in collecting and arranging the materials for a book to be styled "The War, Its Causes, Conduct and Results." It will be in two volumes, the first to appear about the close of the present year. He told me he would say very little about battles or battle-fields, for he has an utter loathing for them. He holds that war degrades any people who engage in it, and retards instead of advances civilization. His book will be on the war in its relation to civil liberty and republican government in this country and throughout the world.

Respecting the present political contest in the South he desires no public expression of his views. As one who is disfranchised and a paroled prisoner, he feels it prudent for him to keep quiet and take no part in public affairs. I shall therefore say nothing in this letter touching his position on the question of reconstruction under the Military Law. He converses freely on the subject and has no hesitation in giving his opinion when asked in his own house. He does so, however, with an injunction that no public use shall be made of what he says on the subject—and he has a right to demand this much. No man in the country loves the American Union more than he does, or more sincerely desires its preservation; no one is more ardently devoted to constitutional liberty than he; no one is less of a monarchist or an aristocrat, or more of a republican. He takes little interest in parties, except as they tend to promote the cause to which he is so warmly attached, and views all questions as a philosopher rather than as a politician.

Value of Our New Purchase.

The *Alta California* gives us some statements about the value of the territory sold us by the Czar. The Aleutian islands are, it says, rich in furs and probably minerals. The islands known as St. Paul and St. George, of the Prebilof group, have been for several years a source of very handsome income to the Russian American company. One hundred thousand fur seal skins have been exported there per annum. The shores of Oonalashka (a word which figures in one of the poet Campbell's sonorous lines) with the other islands of the Aleutian group are haunted by walruses, whose skin and bones are valuable articles of traffic. The fisheries so far as known are among the Choumagin group and in Bristol Bay. The trade in furs, etc., along the coast as far as Sitka would be but small, while beyond that point as far as the island of Bodiak, it would simply depend upon a successful competition with the smugglers who are already upon the ground. In the vicinity of Oonimak Pass and off the peninsula of Alaska good fishing grounds have been found, and the volcanic nature of all the islands skirting the coast promises well for the development of their mineral resources.

There is a good chance for another Yankee lawyer in the Sandwich Islands. Judge George M. Robertson, of the Supreme Court there, has just died, and the Islanders have no fit man to take his place, and propose to send to the United States and import a man. Mr. Phillips, from Salem, seems to be doing finely there as Attorney General.

There is a young law student in Boston whose deceased father left him a fortune of $60,000, and who, in order to save the expense of paying his board, waits on the guests at his employer's establishment from twelve to three p. m. each day, in consideration of his breakfast, dinner and supper.

The Monongahela Valley Railroad Project.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I notice that under the charter granted the Monongahela Valley Railroad Company, there is a movement towards organization, and that a meeting is to be held in a few days for the further consideration of the subject. I would, through your widely circulated paper, call the attention of our citizens to the importance of a railroad leading up the Monongahela valley. The facilities afforded by water transportation are not sufficient or adequate to the wants of the people. That a railroad is wanted and needed there is not a doubt. The question is, will it pay? There is no district of country near the city so closely populated. An idea of this may be had when we consider that for a distance of sixty miles there are from five to seven steamboats running daily, and all with enough of business. All the passenger business, together with a large proportion of the freights, would be turned in favor of the railroad, as on the freights there is charged lockage nearly equal to the cost of transportation, which would give the railroad the advantage in competition. Again, the Monongahela valley is one of the richest in the best quality of coal in the whole country, and is one great source of wealth to Western Pennsylvania. A railroad, especially on the west side of the river, would form a new outlet for a large portion of this mineral, which cannot come by water transportation, as it lies too far back from the river. There are large fields of coal, commencing within four or five miles of the city, that cannot now be brought to market, only as we are bringing other coal a distance of say thirty to fifty miles. No sooner would a railroad be commenced than up every stream emptying into the Monongahela there would be commenced a branch road leading to these vast coal fields, and connecting them with the main line.

The travel on the road would also be much increased by the great number of persons now resident in the city who are anxious to obtain small homesteads in the country. With high rents, and the crowded state of the city, there is a great desire to obtain a small place in the country. In every other direction along the line of the railroads leading from the city, land has been bought up by persons doing business in the city, and here is one of the most beautiful valleys in the country, as yet for this purpose comparatively unoccupied. I think that on examination, men of money will find the Monongahela Valley Railroad a paying investment.

MONONGAHELA.

In Massachusetts, under the protective enactments of the Legislature, experiments for the preservation and propagation of fish have been for some time going on. Fish dams and ways, and other contrivances for inducing fish to ascend the rivers with the view of restocking them with shad, salmon and other varieties nearly extinct or quite rare, have been constructed, and other active agencies are being employed looking directly to the recovery of the ground which the little less than vandalism of sporting has caused to be lost. There is scarcely anything, under wise direction, of thought and action of legislators than the preservation and propagation of fish in our rivers, and in this respect Massachusetts has set an example which we wish might be imitated in Pennsylvania. Who will think the matter up and prepare the right kind of law?

There has been a fanciful theory of this sort—that the physiognomy and the dispositions of various orders of the inferior animals are represented in the human family. There is some ground for this, in the features, the temper, the movements the aspirations of members of the human species. The most recent case is that of a man who has been seized with an ambition to outjump all his fellow men, offering to test his superiority in the accomplishment of jumping, by one jump, three jumps or ten jumps, for a wager of $1,000. All Americans challenged to the contest. Here we see the cropping out of the grass-hopper disposition, or perhaps that of the flea—the most famous of all jumpers. It is not difficult to imagine a lively and exciting contest between two specially athletic fleas, for the championship of the barn yard.

LATENT.

Mobile, May 15.—During the melee last night the following persons were killed and wounded: Killed—Whites—Tabnal Aiken; colored, Samuel Britton. Wounded—Whites, Thos. Taylor, D. H. Hurd, David Parsons, of the police, two boys, and Jas. Barnes, Col. D. C. Sedbury, A. Goodwin and J. Gaugh, since reported dead, and an additional number of men, white and colored, slightly injured and names not known. All is perfectly quiet to-day, and there will be no war. He would insist.

Judge Kelley has been invited by the Mayor to remain and speak in public, and offered the protection of all good citizens. Col. Sheppard also offered him military protection, but Judge Kelley declined their offers, and left for Montgomery to-day.

A card appears in the morning papers, signed by many of the best citizens of Mobile, for a meeting to express unqualified condemnation of the party engaged in the disturbance of the meeting last night.

MEXICO.

Baltimore, May 18.—The *Sun* publishes the following letter from its special correspondent in Havana: The English West India mail Steamer has arrived from Vera Cruz on the 5th inst., but brings neither papers nor letters. Vera Cruz is still closely besieged by the Liberals, who are using their only available siege piece with little effect, as only some few houses have been injured since its arrival. There was no probability of the Liberals taking the city unless the Imperial Generals should disagree among themselves, causing a surrender. Sickness among the besieging troops is daily alarming proportions. There are over 2,200 in the hospitals.

The City of Mexico is invested by Diaz. It is the intention of the Emperor to defend the city at all hazards. The besieging force numbers about 12,000, and receives additions daily. The fall of the city is considered certain. Hunger will soon compel the besieged to capitulate.

The Issue in the Approaching Campaign.

A correspondent of the Blair county *Whig*, writing from Duncansville, relative to the approaching county convention there, says: "As far as the township of Allegheny is concerned, the issue in the coming campaign is a 'Free Railroad Law'—not a prohibitory measure such as the one which 'went through' the Senate last winter; but one equally as liberal in its provisions, as the one which that august body smothered. The man who receives the support of Allegheny township in the convention must be unequivocally and *actively* in favor of the bill which passed the House of Representatives last winter. Our interpretation of a liberal, general railroad policy does not in the least regard those who voted *against* the restoration of the Connellsville Railroad charter as being friendly to such policy. In taking this course we are not actuated by the slightest feeling of unfriendliness to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company—it is not that we love the Pennsylvania Railroad less, but ourselves more."

IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

—At the annual meeting of the Swedish Academy of Science, M. Nordenskiold announced that a discovery of great importance to geological science had been made in the hill of Nullaberg, in Sweden. A large deposit of bituminous gneiss, thirty-three metres in thickness, has been found imbedded in layers of gneiss and mica schist. It is composed, in addition to feldspar, quartz and mica, of a black substance like coal, containing carbonated hydrogen—In fact, a real organic substance, formed of the remains of plants or animals covered with the deposit. He added that there could be no doubt as to the antiquity and geological situation of the strata of Nullaberg; infiltration was impossible. The inference was that the crystalline stratified rocks of Scandinavia were formed when there existed animated creatures, but at a time long anterior to the period when life is supposed to have first existed on the earth.

Parties familiar in gold mining in California, who have just returned from North Carolina, assure the Washington *Chronicle* that there are as good gold mines in the latter as in the former State, and can be made fully as profitable if worked with the same skill and perseverance. There is, they affirm, hardly a stream in the counties of Moore, Randolph, Montgomery, Davidson, Cobarrus and Stanley, which will not yield gold by "panning" the sands from its bed. The same is true of parts of Mecklenburg, Union, Lincoln, Catawba, Rutherford, Burke, Henderson and other counties in the old North State.

The Crops in Clarion.—The Clarion *Democrat* of last week says: We have conversed with a large number of farmers from various parts of the country during the past week, and they all state that the crops look unusually promising. The cold and wet weather has kept back the sowing of oats and preparing of corn ground, but the wheat and rye, though not so large as it sometimes is at this season, yet is well set on the ground, and not injured by the winter; and with a favorable season the harvest will be truly plenteous. The late frosts have not greatly injured the fruit, and there is a good prospect for a large yield, particularly of apples.

Bellefonte, Pa.—This thriving village, says a correspondent, has been noted for producing great men, and indeed the society is of the most cultivated and refined kind. I need only enumerate that that place was the residence of Andrew Gregg, John and William Bigler, Robert J. Walker, James Irvin, William Packer and Andrew G. Curtin, all of whom were either Governors or candidates of the prominent political parties; as also of the learned Judges of the Supreme Court, Huston and Burnsides. Gregg, Irvin and Curtin were of the same family, the two Biglers were brothers, and Burnsides and Huston were brothers-in-law.

The New Bedford *Mercury* has a letter from an old shipmaster, now residing on the island of Timiru, New Zealand, which represents the soil of the island as wonderfully fertile. One farmer, last year, raised 10,000 bushels of wheat. But the trouble is no market.

THE MOBILE RIOT.

Attempted Assassination of Judge Kelley.

The Assassin Arrested and Admitted to Bail.

THE RIOT A PRECONCERTED AFFAIR.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Commercial.

Mobile, Ala., May 15, 1867.

In the riot last night two men were killed. One was white, a German, who was shot through the head and stabbed afterwards. One was a colored man who lay in the street till this morning. The firing extended to various streets, a distance of one mile from the meeting, and was from houstops and windows. Col. Shepperd, commanding the United States troops here, will make an investigation into all the circumstances.

Filles, the late Superintendent of Police, who fired the first shot, which was aimed at Judge Kelley, has been arrested and held in five thousand dollars bail. No other arrests have been made.

Judge Kelley left at noon on a Government transport for Montgomery, furnished by Col. Sheppard.

The instruments of the band of the 15th United States Infantry, who were on the platform when the riot commenced, were nearly all broken in the melee.

The Mobile papers charge Judge Kelley with using incendiary language, and accuse the negroes of being the cause of the riot.

Mayor Withers is an ex-Confederate General, and his police is of the same complexion. All of the police force on duty were present at the meeting. It is said that the attack was made by an armed mob, yet only one man has been arrested.

By Associated Press.

New York, May 15.—The *Herald's* Mobile special gives the particulars of the riot. He says that Judge Kelley had been speaking about a quarter of an hour in a frank and temperate manner, when there appeared to be a disposition to create a disturbance on the outskirts of the meeting. Cries of put him down were heard, to which Mr. Kelley replied: "I tell you that you cannot put me down." The fifteenth Infantry are at my back, and if they can't keep the peace in Mobile, the United States army can." The tumult suddenly broke out at this point by a shot from a pistol in the platform. About a hundred people were on the platform, including many eminent citizens, reporters of the press, etc. This rush seemed to be the signal for the attack on the platform. The Chief of Police attempted to arrest a ringleader on the border of the crowd, and he drew a pistol on him. The cry of fire was then raised at the corner of Royal street, and instantly a perfect fusillade of pistols was opened on the crowd who occupied the platform. A colored man was here shot in the head and fell. Some friends assisted the fallen man out of the range of fire and succeeded in getting him away unharmed. The firing by this time was directed right and left among the crowd in the streets, and in all directions, for a mile.

There seemed to be no attempt on the part of the police to arrest the violence, or if there was it was ineffectual, as the pistols had all their own way. It was evidently a preconcerted affair, and was probably stimulated by incendiary articles in the rebel press for the past few days. Col. Sheppard, who commands the military here, at once dispatched a battalion troops to the Battle House, where Judge Kelley is stopping, and where Colonel Sheppard has his office. During the night several white men who probably had no part in the attack, were shot in the melee. Mr. Goldsmith was killed, and Mr. Sadbury, late Chief of Police, was shot through the head. A policeman had a ball put through his vest. At any disposition to renew the riots is shown, it is probable that the city will be placed under martial law.

Colonel Shepperd is now in council with Mayor Withers. The whole military force, who are encamped about a mile from the place of meeting, have been ordered into the city, and are now posted at different points prepared for any attempt of a renewal of the riot.

LATEST.

Mobile, May 15.—During the melee last night the following persons were killed and wounded: Killed—Whites—Tabnal Aiken; colored, Samuel Britton. Wounded—Whites, Thos. Taylor, D. H. Hurd, David Parsons, of the police, two boys, and Jas. Barnes, Col. D. C. Sedbury, A. Goodwin and J. Gaugh, since reported dead, and an additional number of men, white and colored, slightly injured and names not known. All is perfectly quiet to-day, and there will be no war. He would insist.

Judge Kelley has been invited by the Mayor to remain and speak in public, and offered the protection of all good citizens. Col. Sheppard also offered him military protection, but Judge Kelley declined their offers, and left for Montgomery to-day.

A card appears in the morning papers, signed by many of the best citizens of Mobile, for a meeting to express unqualified condemnation of the party engaged in the disturbance of the meeting last night.

Everybody still remembers the extraordinary dispatch, attributed to Gen. Pope, about the capture by him of ten thousand prisoners and ever so many guns, south of Corinth, in June, 1862. The supplemental report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War contains the correspondence between Pope and Halleck, wherein the former unequivocally denies ever sending to him such a dispatch, and severely handling the latter pretty severely for not communicating on what authority he forwarded the dispatch to Washington. As the correspondence stands, Halleck has the worst of it, and Pope has succeeded in pretty thoroughly vindicating herself.

The Atlanta *Intelligencer* is of the opinion that it is not in immigration but the labor of the freedmen that the South has the deepest interest. To this reliance it expects the Southern people to turn their attention. To "regulate" the labor that is in their midst, says the *Intelligencer*, "is the first grand consideration to which the Southern people must turn their attention, else our fields will grow up in tares, and industry become paralyzed throughout the whole Southern domain." This is a wise and timely admonition, and it vividly illustrates the wonderful change that has come over the whole face of things in the South.

Rats and bedbugs appear to be instruments of prison discipline and punishment in New York city. The papers speak of both as highly efficacious in the case of prisoner Jenkins, who died lately in the Tombs. The risk of being gnawed by rats and the certainty of assault by animals of the smaller vermin must exercise a salutary moral influence, at least so far as to raise a horror of the punishment.

The New York *Times*, commenting on the signing of the eight hour law by Governor Fenton, remarks on its practical effect as follows: The agitators for this movement have succeeded—they have "regulated labor"—they have got two hours per day for idleness and its expensive luxuries; and what does it cost? Twenty per cent. of every dollar that might have gone into their pockets, which, with at least an equal amount that will be wasted during the extra hours of idleness, will be a practical *reduction of forty per cent. in the wages of labor.*

The managers of the Gettysburg Asylum lottery scheme are out in their own defense. They maintain that the scheme is purely for the proposed asylum, and not for their own benefit, and they give notice that the institution will be built in spite of the opposition. Conceding the truthfulness of all they say, the lottery question, independent of its object, still remains, and the reasons against schemes working on the principal are as good as ever.

The result of the London Conference has caused an active demand for our Five-twenties, which have stiffened under the impulse. Considerable quantities have been purchased on foreign account. It is anticipated that under a pretty certain—for the present—peace prospect, the Germans will buy back again all the Five-twenties they have sold at London, and there is a disposition to speculate on the expectation of a demand from that source.

There was a second shock of an earthquake at Nebraska City, at 150 bbls. o'clock on the morning of the 3d last. It was of longer duration and more violent than that of the 24th of April. Bedsteads were moved from their positions, stove-pipes tumbled down and houses rocked to and fro like ships in a heavy sea. The same shock appears to have been felt at Sidney, Iowa.

State Medical Convention.—The State Medical Society will hold its next annual meeting in this city, at Lafayette Hall, on Wednesday, June 12th, and not on the 3d as erroneously printed a few days since. There will be a very full attendance of the profession, delegates having been appointed from every county in the State, and the proceedings will be full of interest.

The suicide at member of Congress elect, Eli Hise, Kentuck y, is said to have been caused by the fact he had made a false revenue return, the dread of the exposure of which drove him to the act. Were all men, similarly situated, to act thus, how extensive would be the list of suicides!

A new party or organization is on the tapis in Massachusetts, with the view of taking the field the ensuing fall. Colonel Schouler, whom General Butler caused to be removed from the post of Adjutant General, which he held under Governor Andrew all through the war, is talked of for Governor.

It is understood that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad managers decline to come into any arrangement either as to freight or passengers, but will go on its "own hook," as the only policy whereby its interest can be protected.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

Wednesday Evening, May 15, 1867.

The local money market exhibited no new features to-day that are worthy of special remark.

—The general merchandise trade does not wear a very animated expression. Purchasers of goods still confine themselves to the immediate wants of their customers, and consequently only lay in stock by small lots at a time.

—The tameness of the speculative feeling in the face of the prevailing abundance of money in the New York market, is a source of surprise to many, and there is a growing disposition to buy among outside investors as soon as it becomes clear that the market has escaped from the control of the bears, who have ruled it for the last half year and more. Of late the market has been remarkable only for its indecisive movements, a consequence of the bears being as much afraid to sell as the bulls are to buy; but this hesitation cannot last much longer, and the indications are that when a decided change does take place it will be in favor of higher prices. The prospect of abundant crops, and the probability that no further contraction of the currency will take place for an indefinite length of time to come, inspire a better feeling in Wall street, as well as in all departments of trade.

—Ira B. McVay & Co. report the quotations of Governments in New York to-day as follows:

U. S. 6s, 1881	111½
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	103
U. S. 5-20s, 1864	103
U. S. 5-20s, 1865	103
U. S. 10-40s	99½
5-20s, 1865, January and July	107½
6s, 1881	111½
7-30s	105½
August 7-30s	105½
June 7-30s	105½
July 7-30s	105½
December 7-30s	105½

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth and Wood streets, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

U. S. 6s, 1881	111½
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	103
U. S. 5-20s, 1864	103
U. S. 5-20s, 1865	103
U. S. 10-40s	99½
5-20s, 1865, January and July	107½
August 7-30s	105½
June 7-30s	105½
July 7-30s	105½
December Compounds, old	105½

—The Railway stocks at the New York Exchange, as reported by S. S. Bryan, are as follows:

Michigan Southern	90
Michigan Central & Pittsburgh	90
Fort Wayne & Chicago	86
Erie	65
Chicago & Rock Island	89
Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago	88
Chicago & Northwestern preferred	60½
Reading	105

—The New York *Advertiser* says: The bulls and bears equally lack decision and courage, being mutually afraid of playing into each other's hands, and are watching each other's movements to discover a false step of which to take advantage. The bull clique must have discovered that they have committed an error in attempting to run up prices in the present condition of affairs, and probably think with their opponents that a downward speculation would be most accordant with the temper of the market; but unfortunately they must incur heavy losses upon their load of stocks, in attempting such a movement.

—The changes in the Philadelphia bank exhibit are less marked than those of the form preceding weeks. Like the statements of the last and previous weeks, it indicates a dull and quiet market. The deposits show a further augmentation of $268,159; their increase last week was over a million. The loans have been augmented $420,121; their increase last week was $1,162,508. The legal tenders exhibit a further increase of $91,561; their augmentation last week was nearly half a million. The specie has been reduced $30,709, and the circulation has been diminished $9,742; while the capital has been enlarged by $24,0000. The clearings have fallen off $2,985,888, and the balances decreased $714,045.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

Office of the Pittsburgh Commercial, } Wednesday Evening, May 15, 1867. }

There was a fair demand for flour, and light sales to-day. Business continues dull and dragging with limited transactions, confined strictly to the wants of consumption. Flour is still active for the better grades, and prices are firm, but the groceries there is a moderate business doing. There is a fair business doing in provisions.

The receipts of leading articles of produce, per railroad and river, during the past week, were as follows: Flour, 1,000 bbls; apples, 50 bbls; cheese, 82 boxes; corn, 65 sks; wheat, 760 sks; rye, 31 sks; oats, 40 sks, and hay, 40 tons.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale prices unless otherwise stated:

Butter—The receipts of new grass butter have been limited, and prices are steady and firm in demand. Choice roll is dull from store at 28@30c per lb, and to effect sales, lower prices have been taken, in some cases. At retail, to-day, very fine print butter sold at 35c per lb, and choice roll at 30c.

Beans—Prime white continue in good demand at $7.00@8.00 per bushel.

Bacon, Lard, &c.—There is a moderate trade to-day. Sales from first hands reported at 16c for plain hams; 16c for sugar cured hams; 15@15½c for canvassed do; 11@11½c for sides; 9@9½c for shoulders; 22c for dried beef; 16c for lard, and $25.50 per bbl for mess pork.

Cheese—New cheese is coming in quite freely, and W. R. is selling from store at 13@16c per lb, and Goshen at 20c per lb.

Eggs—The market is more active and closes firm with a good demand at 16@18c per dozen for those in good order. Sales 28 bbls at these figures reported.

Fruit—Dried apples (new) few sound green apples in market, and prices for these are nominal at $4.00 per bbl, with sales reported of very choice selected at high as $5 per bbl. Inferior qualities sold nominally at from $3.00@3.50 per bbl, and $2.50@3.00 per bbl. Dried fruit is still inactive, and prices nominal, ranging from store at 8@10c for apples, and from 12@15c for peaches.

Flour—The market continues active, and good spring brands selling readily at $11.75@13.00, and winter at $13.00@16.25 per bbl. Second grades are not much called for. We note sales to-day of the following brands: Mahle Brandywine, at $16.50; Ringgold, at $15; Phillis Jenkins's Lily at $15.25; Miss Jenkins's Eureka at $15.50 and 100 bbls Sears's Best at $15.00 per bbl. Fine grades are in good demand.

Grain—We have no reported sales of wheat. The receipts are light and all on account of millers. Prices are nominal, and not quotable.

Oats—There are 500 bushels in store, most of which from store. On Tuesday two cars were sold, in elevator, free of charges, at 54 @ 55c per bush.

Rye—We note sales of 180 sacks at $1.61 @ bush from store.

Oats—Three cars sold on the track at 55c @ bush.

Feed—Sales reported of 75 sacks seconds at $2.25 @ hundred.

Potatoes—Sales of P. R. potatoes at $3.00@3.50 and Mercers $4 @ bush.

Groceries.

The advance in gold to 137 has stiffened prices, and Sugar and Coffee show a slight rise. Saleratus and Bi Carb soda has declined. New Orleans Molasses and Sugar scarce but without any change in prices. Deducting the duty, foreign groceries are about as low in price (gold) as they were immediately preceding the war.

Coffee—Old Government Java, 38c; Laguayra, 27c; Rio, choice, 26c; prime, 27c; good, 26c; roasting, 25c. Sugar—New Orleans, fair to prime, 13@13½c; choice, 13½@14c; Crushed, 16½c; Powdered, 16½c; Crushed, 16½c. A Coffee, 15½c; B do, 15c; Extra C, 14½c; Yellow C, 14c; Golden C, 13½c. Molasses—New Orleans, 95@$1; Porto Rico, 85@90c; Cuba, 75c.

Syrup—Lowerings, $1.10; other choice brands, $1.00; fair to good, 90c@$1.

Tea—Young Hyson, common to finest, 90c@$1.85; Imperial and Gunpowder, do, $1.20@2.25; damaged, 80c@$1.25; Oolong, 90c@$1.50.

Rice—Carolina, 12c; Patna, 12c; Rangoon, 10@11c.

Vinegar—Pure white wine vinegar, 28c; common grades, 16c.

Fish—No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $24; No. 2 do, $21; No. 3, $19; No. 1 Bay, do, $21; No. 2 Bay, do, $19; No. 3 large do, $16.50; Lake Herring, $4.75; Trout, $5.50@$6.

Soda—English Bicarbate.

Spices—Pimento, 35c; Pepper, 35c; Cloves, 45c; Cassia, 45c; Ginger, 30c; Nutmegs, $1.00; Cassia, 75c.

Soap—Proctor & Gamble's Olive, 10c; Babbett's, 12½c; Oakley's, 12c.

Lye—Concentrated Lye, $6.50@6.60.

Lard Oil—Proctor & Gamble's Extra No. 1 Lard Oil $1.35.

Candles—Proctor & Gamble's starcandles, 22c.

Foreign Wines in Glass—Moet & Chandon's green seal, $9 case, $37.50; do Verzenay basket, $35; Heidsick & Co., do, $37.50; Julien Claret, do case, $36@37; St. Jacques Claret, do do, $31; Medoc Claret, do do, $9; Burgundy Chablis, do do, $25@37; Chambertin, $37.50.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

Office of the Pittsburgh Commercial, } Thursday, May 16, 1867. }

Business since our last report was very active, the demand was confined to limited parcels; buyers did not appear to have much confidence in the present prices, and were disposed to hold off to see what turn the market would take. The stock in first hands, outside of that held by refiners, is not large. Prices that were current for some days past have been maintained. The receipts of Crude since our last were 2,500 barrels, the shipments 3,000, and the refining 150 bbls; 2c, packages returned; sales 3,000 bbls bulk, 43 gravity, 6¾c; sales 1,600 bbls, 44 gravity, bulk, 6¾c, being equal to 11@12c packages included.

Refined Oil—The market was dull; dealers were disposed to hold off for lower prices. The only sales that came under our notice were 500 barrels bonded standard white, "Devoe" brand, 37c, 6 months' free on cars, 38c the purchasers to pay $1 ₱ bbl on the spot to consummate the bargain. Sales 900 barrels bonded on the spot, Philadelphia, standard white, 36c; standard white, Pratt's brand, Philadelphia, June, 36½c ₱ gallon. Free oil—prices have undergone no change; we omit figures.

Iowa Crops.

We learn from the Dubuque *Herald*, of the 9th inst., that during the week ending on that date, the farmers throughout the State have been busily engaged in putting in their spring crops. A greater quantity of ground has been sown to wheat this year than at any other season, and thus far all promises well for a good crop. The scarcity of data valuable to reveal during in paste spring has taught our farmers a lesson they will not soon forget, and if they are short again it will be through no fault of their own. Exchanges from different parts of the State speak very highly of the condition of the crops, especially in the interior and southern portions of the State, gentlemen who have traveled in that locality report that, although the season is remarkably backward, the winter wheat never looked better. The high prices which grain now commands have induced all to sow their last available ground, and from present indications the granaries of Iowa will be filled to overflowing the coming fall.

New York Dry Goods Market.

[From the New York Tribune, Tuesday evening.]

The trade in dry goods was expected to improve with the opening of settled spring weather. The expectation, however, is completely disappointed, and at present business is more depressed than at any time during the season. The jobbers are keeping the lowest possible stock, and cannot be prevailed upon to buy anything for which they have not an immediate market. Even the most desirable goods, when offered at a concession in prices, prove unsalable, and commission merchants and importers alike find it impossible to realize upon the stock. It is not wise to blink this affair, as inactivity in any branch of trade is a further break down in prices.

MILWAUKEE FLOUR AND WHEAT MARKET.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

Milwaukee, Wis., May 13, 1867.

Throughout the past week operations in our grain and flour market have been quiet and steady, and although fluctuations in the price of wheat have been constant and rapid, the fluctuations have not covered a very large scale of figure. Our receipts in wheat have improved, though not sufficient to balance the shipping and local demand. Notwithstanding there is no apparent margin between the East and our market in favor of shipment, it is unfavorable to orders coming direct to our stock, and we send from our elevators during the past week a fraction over 90,000 bushels, while our receipts have been a fraction over 67,000 bushels, leaving an estimated remainder in store of 90,871 bushels; being a deficiency upon estimate of the first of the month of 42,486 bushels. In this way is our stock steadily decreased, while our local demand for milling purposes would about consume two-thirds of the 90,000 bushels now remaining in store, were they to run to their capacity a week. We have understood that several of the city mills will close down soon, on account of the high prices and scarcity of wheat, while many of those located in the country have been compelled to close for the same reasons. Flour has been inactive, but with no disposition to decline from our figures, which seem to be fairly established. No increase in our stock, which continues light in all grades. Oats and corn have been active, and advanced, but at present the reverse is the case, and we rule dull and weak. Rye has been steady and unvarying in price. The following quotations are ruling in the market: Wheat—No. 1, $2.03; No. 2, $2.83; No. 3, $2.67. Oats—No. 1, 75c; No. 2, 73c. Corn—No. 1, 85 cents. Rye—No. 1, $1.36. Barley—$1.25. Flour—City double extras at $13.75@14.50; country double extras $12.50@13.75; extra trade, $12.75@13.37½.

Very respectfully,

Mower, Church & Bell.

LUMBER MARKETS.

Chicago.

Within the last twenty-four hours upwards of sixty-five vessels laden with lumber have arrived at this port, says the Chicago *Tribune* of Tuesday, being the largest fleet of the season. The increase of the liberal receipts, the market in the early part of the day dragged, buyers holding off for lower prices. But as soon as it became evident that dealers were unwilling to make concessions, prices became firm and with considerable animation, and during the greater portion of the afternoon cargoes moved off quite readily. The demand for choice grades continues good, and the receipts of these articles are light, full prices are realized. Common grades are dull and heavy, and inquiry for them is very light in their views from $13@$15. Shingles are in light demand, and on "A" the market is nominal. We note a sale of 250 M. bath are in fair inquiry and the market ranges there is an active demand, both on interior and Chicago account, at unchanged prices and quotations. Cargo sales about include the following: Sch. G. T. Irwin, Grand River, with 320 M common mixed rafted at $16.50, on boats of 20 per cent for stern and 25 per cent for bow; sch. Fisher E. C. Roberts, from Algoma, with 12 M it sidle and common mixed at $16.50, on boats of 20 per cent in stern, and 12 M it sidle at $23.00, delivered on outer dock; sch. Gregor Smith, from Muskegon, with 90 M common mixed at $19.00, delivered on Washington Street; sch. Ashtabula, from Grand River, with 70 M it sidle and common mixed at $23.00, delivered at Ashtabula at $1.25; sch. J. Webber, from Bay Settlement, with 80 M common mixed and it sidle at $17.00 and $18.00 for Sloop Supply, from Pentwaters, with 90 M it sidle at $23.00, delivered on outer dock; sch. Concord on contract; Schr Oneida, from Muskegon, with 90 M common mixed at $19.00, delivered on dock; C. Bailey, from White Lake, with 100 M common mixed at $19.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1867.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

LABOR A COMMODITY.

If the object were good in itself and beneficial to men, we should not object to doing away with work altogether, and should be ready to sign any number of petitions to that effect. This would dissipate all the illusions and sink all the capital of the men who spout on the eight hour topic, and would also dispose of the quarrel between labor and capital, as there would be nothing left of either, to quarrel or to quarrel about.

But there are several points raised by our civilization against the discontinuance of labor. History and observation prove that where *society* has at any time got itself into the happy condition of doing without work, the blessing has always set heavily on the *women*. The gallantry that characterizes high civilization will not accept exemption from labor on that condition. Nor does it accord with an elevated tone of social life, to work only enough to keep soul and body together—they may in some conditions of society. Acquisitiveness has had too rank a growth for that in this country. Besides high prices and a hard climate make the keeping of soul and body together no easy task, as things are now.

It is clear we cannot do without labor in our circumstances. And the wisest thing we can do is to understand it. Labor is not a penalty to be endured. People are not working out a sentence imposed by others. Labor is a commodity, a thing to be bought and sold, as much as flour or iron or cloth is. And it is to the man who has it at his own disposal, as truly capital, as money or bank stock. It goes into the market, like other commodities, in different conditions and in different quantities. One man brings into the market his labor *in the rough*, just as it grew, bone and muscle. Another has trained his to the use of instruments and tools; another has spent years of time and large sums of money in polishing up his labor into availability for purposes of skill, contrivance and thought. Each goes into the great world mart with his commodity. And in that mart he meets with men whose capital is money, more or less, and traffic and exchange are effected, for the benefit of both classes, and on principles of equality. The quality and quantity and kind of labor are just as proper subjects of consideration in the labor trade, as the same things are in the cloth trade or the flour trade. And all the talk and all the legislation possible cannot make it different. It will probably be one of the good results of the current discussions to make this more plain to everybody's perception.

REFORM, HERE AND THERE.

England is all astir with excitement, in favor of reform. Able men are discussing it, immense meetings are held, politicians are risking their positions and influence on the enterprise, the throne itself is trembling—or is supposed to be so, as scores of times before, though it has never quite toppled over. All this, for the purpose of securing to some persons the privilege of voting. The United States has also its reform project, of a similar kind, going on with discussions, big meetings, party arrangements, speeches, newspapers and all political enginery. This is, to secure to the black people lately slaves, the privilege of voting. Voting seems to be the *summum bonum* and chief end of life, in both cases.

Of course we are gratified—every good citizen must be so—to see a disposition prevailing to extend to all people the civil rights and privileges that belong to them. But as voting has an aspect towards the public interest, as well as toward private and individual rights, some solicitude should be felt about the qualifications of voters. On this depends great consequences connected with the public interests. Blind partisanship needs no qualifications, and, therefore, those who have only party ascendency as their end, are indifferent about the intelligence and moral fitness of voters. If they hold a ballot between thumb and finger, and hand it in at the polls, it is enough. The suffrage, in the eye of the citizen who regards the public good, demands more than this—some understanding of the nature of the Government; some power of discriminating between right and wrong in politics.

In England and in this country classes are aspiring to the right of suffrage which have not heretofore enjoyed it. The claim meets with opposition in both cases, and in both has a powerful support. And it would not be strange if in both—we think we see it clearly—there should be a predominance of the partisan over the patriotic motive, in much that is said on both sides of the question. The right of suffrage being granted, the contest for the control of the new political element naturally ensues. This is the phase now presenting itself in the Southern States, where those who opposed the grant are quite as keen for taking advantage of it as those who favored it.

SOLDIERS' HOME.

As a project has been started for raising funds for the erection of a Soldiers' Home, we deem it but proper to say to our readers that Pennsylvania has already two excellent institutions of this kind, and that neither of them is filled with inmates. One of these is in Philadelphia, and the other in Pittsburgh.

The proposed new one is to be established at Gettysburg—not a suitable place for such an institution—and the funds are to be raised by lottery—a questionable method for charitable purposes. Besides, a third institution is not at all needed, since the existing ones are not filled, and it should be borne in mind that the entire purpose of them will be accomplished in a few years, and their use be constantly diminishing.

The Pittsburgh Sanitary Soldiers' Home has in it seventy-five disabled soldiers, and could comfortably accommodate twice as many more. Its buildings and grounds are extensive and in fine order. The houses being heated with steam and furnished with baths, diet-kitchen, laundry, and all other conveniences which the experience of the war proved to be desirable. The grounds, twenty-four acres, are handsomely laid out, and supplied with trees, shrubbery and flowers. Many of our readers are aware that this Home is what was formerly the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, in the Ninth ward, overlooking the city. The institution has an income, from invested funds, of several thousand dollars per year, and the Legislature, should it be necessary for the support and comfort of our brave soldiers disabled and infirm, will supplement this with whatever may be needed.

The fact that this most attractive place is not fully occupied shows two things; first, the noble character of our soldiers, who are not disposed, unless absolutely necessary, to avail themselves of public help; and secondly, it proves that an additional Home is not needed in our good Commonwealth.

THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

It is certainly encouraging to be assured, as we are, by the cable, that the London Conference has "insured the peace of Europe." We presume that the most we can rightly infer from this is that they who indulge in it, entertain a strong hope that immediate war will be avoided. Although by the agreement reached by the Conference, the Conference has determined on the neutrality of Luxemburg and the demolition of the fortifications, that will scarcely touch the real seat of the difficulty—which is the question of supremacy between France and Prussia. That still remains. Prussia's stature—so lately grown to startling proportions—will not be diminished a particle by the determination of the Conference regarding Luxemburg; nor will the stature of France—virtually dwarfed by Prussia's growth—be advanced thereby to its former dictatorial proportions. Had the conference succeeded in removing the arrogance of Prussia and allaying the envy of France, it would have done something permanent to insure the peace of Europe, so far as it depends for the present on the relations of these two nations. It may for a very brief season, have postponed the collision, but we do not believe it has averted it altogether. The acknowledged supremacy of France is a necessity to the Emperor. That which has so suddenly interfered with the former happy state of NAPOLEON'S mind, arose necessarily out of Prussia's demonstrated strength. The neutralizing of Luxemburg will not in reality change the case a particle. It may temporarily soothe the feelings of the French Emperor, but it will scarcely remove the real cause which led to the Conference. About all that can be said of its doings for a certainty is, that time has been secured to France to complete her warlike preparations. Prussia was quite ready before, and cannot therefore be said to have been the special gainer in this, though no doubt she will employ the time in preparations that will make good at any time the pretentions which have so greatly disturbed the French Emperor.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The Constitutional Convention in New York is looked forward to with interest. Several questions and subjects, that are important beyond the limits of that State, will be brought under consideration, and receive discussion in the light of past experience. Among these, in addition to the subject of an Elective Judiciary which we noticed some days since, will be the power of municipal corporations. The condition of New York city, as to its municipal administration, will be the occasion of raising this question. As an illustration of what may become the condition of other cities, and, in fact, of the more extended civil governments, the case presents material for general consideration.

The complaints of the city administration are numerous and relate to several particulars, embraced in the general statement, that it is "the most corrupt, profligate, reckless and disastrous administration of municipal affairs that ever cursed any city equally populous, wealthy and intelligent." This strong language is that of one of the most prominent and influential of the city papers, speaking from a standpoint avowedly not partisan. The specific idea of the complaints is, that the *expense* of the city government is enormous and extravagant, and that the money raised is squandered and perverted, the government of the city being in every respect shamefully and intolerably bad. That this should be the case under a *popular* government, where the money spent so recklessly comes from the pockets of the people who demand the expenditure, may appear somewhat of an anomaly, since people who supply the money generally exercise some care in its disbursement.

This brings us to the very point of the trouble in New York. The theory of the case does not agree with the practice. The large majority of the people, by whose suffrage the city government is elected and its expenditures, of course, controlled, are not the persons who pay the taxes and replenish the treasury. The portion of the citizen's who supply the money are a minority, and those who direct the spending of it are the majority. Under these circumstances, extravagance and profligacy are certain, according to the common operation of human nature, and bad government will keep even pace with wastefulness.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the rapid increase of expense for supporting a city administration growing worse and worse, should induce the better classes of intelligent and industrious citizens to seek for a remedy. And while it is maintained that, so far as the city is concerned, "the experiment of universal suffrage has upon trial been proved a failure," the doctrine has been proposed, as perfectly consistent with the general theory of popular civil government, that the expenditure of the city money should be determined by a vote of the tax-payers who furnish the money. This important distinction, if admitted, it is claimed would secure a far cheaper and at the same time far better administration of municipal affairs. We are glad to see the subject introduced, and anticipate good from its thorough discussion. The power of municipal governments and the modes of administering them, have had too much, perhaps, of the States-rights theory in them, to be quite consistent with the enjoyment of rights guarantied by general and State constitutions.

LABOR SPITING ITSELF.

The rather severe campaign on the Eight Hour Law in Chicago, has shown that the practical effect of it, if rigidly conformed to, would be to curtail the income of the mechanic twenty per cent. If the cost of living were reduced correspondingly, things would still be square; but the logical and no doubt the practical effect would be to increase the cost of living. On the principle that time is money—and there is no truer one—it will cost one-fifth more to build a house on the eight than it would on the ten hour system,—consequently more rent would be required; hence the renting mechanic, working and getting pay for eight hours, while he would receive less for his work, would, for that reason, have to pay more for his house rent. And so, too, of other things entering into the cost of living. What is cut off, by the eight hour system, at one end, for the benefit of the mechanic, he pays for at the other, out of correspondingly lessened means. When everything—rents, flour, meat and dry goods,—is made to conform in price to the eight hour system, it may work—but not before, without inflicting an injury on those who have sought it as a remedy. It will be perceived, therefore, that the arbitrary eight hour system, rigidly carried out, would prove a contrivance to increase the cost of what is consumed while it reduced the means of consumers. Men must eat, wear and live the same, whether under the eight or ten hour system of labor. The less the hours of labor are, the less there is produced—a state of things which destroys the competition that keeps down prices. A full market produces competition when prices must come down; and labor being the greatest consumer is most interested in competition, and first to be effected by it. When labor lessens the quantity of products, it spites itself, and just this must be the effect of the eight hour rule.

THE GAME LAW.

The other day, in Syracuse, N. Y., two fish dealers offered for sale, among their stock eleven black bass fish. They were prosecuted, at the instance of the Onondaga Sportsmen's Club, and were fined, in all, $55, for the offense, the penalty of the case being five dollars a fish. That, no doubt, terminated their traffic in contraband fish, since the profits of it could not be great, with so heavy a drawback. For this act of vigilance in the Sportsmen's Club, and of fidelity in the court, we, though at a distance, do honor to both.

If over the folly, satirized in the fable of the Goose and the Golden Egg, was exhibited on a large scale, it is in our own country. For present profit or gratification, we kill, capture and destroy, without consideration of the future, and often for an immediate gain, entail on ourselves, with others, a permanent privation and loss. Impatient of restraint or delay, even when demanded by the laws of nature itself, the breeding season of birds, fish and game are by many entirely ignored. By this process of destructiveness, marked no less by its stupidity than its greediness, races of animals, useful for fur or food, that might have been, just as well, preserved, have been exterminated, and other races are rapidly disappearing. The streams, once abounding in delicious fish, have become tenantless. The woods and fields have been stripped of their lively and useful bird tribes. The net has swept the rivers, lakes and creeks irrespective of seasons, and the "murderous tribe," as BURNS indignantly terms it, is perpetually killing and frightening away the birds of the country.

Some sensible people have deplored this desolating persecution of the indigenous animals of the country, and have secured laws for their protection, at least in their breeding seasons. Such laws are not usually enforced as they should be. And it is for this reason that we notice with so many words the laudable action in the case referred to. If Sportsmen's Clubs are necessary to secure the application of our statutes on the subject, by all means let them be organized and let them be active. It is a worthy mission.

THE IMPULSE OF THE MOMENT.

This expression is so frequently used to palliate and excuse crimes, even of a serious character, that a caveat against such use cannot be justly regarded as out of place in the columns of a secular journal. The impulse of the moment, which occasions some of the most shocking crimes and some of the most deplorable ruin of character and life, surely cannot be justly placed in extenuation of the wrong and mischief. The larger portion of the offenses against the peace and order of society are such as spring from this cause. Shooting and stabbing affairs, as they are termed in the local columns of papers, assault and battery, libidinous assaults, are always attributable to the sudden outbursts of ungoverned passions. So also is character sacrificed by acts of peculation and theft, committed under the impulse of the moment, when opportunity was presented with promise of escaping detection. And so, too, in a moment, good fame, place, employment, domestic peace and self-respect have been thrown away, for the intoxicating cup, under the impulse of the moment.

The reason and conscience of man are given to control passions and to resist their blind impulse. A man who cannot see a watch within his reach, without feeling an impulse to appropriate it, or have an opportunity of cheating without embracing it, is a dangerous character in society. It will not do to plead the excitement of the moment as an excuse. It is his uncontrolled depravity that makes him dangerous, and requires the infliction of penalties for the crimes to which it leads him. We may pity those who are so enslaved to passion and appetite, that reason and conscience and law have no power to restrain them from doing wrong to others and themselves, but to make the impulse of the moment a justification or excuse, is to excuse one fault by another and even a greater one.

The country will be gratified to learn that JEFFERSON DAVIS is to have an early trial, and that Chief Justice CHASE will try him. It will take place in Richmond. Few persons, we apprehend, expect DAVIS will be punished with extreme rigor, as the result of the trial; but nearly everybody does wish to have it determined whether, for the part he took in the rebellion, he committed treason. On that issue, we suppose, he will be tried, and though there is small reason to expect the sentence which would follow the verdict of guilty, would ever be executed, yet it is of the highest importance that the questions what constitutes treason, what are the rights of the States under the Constitution, and whether the Union is a partnership dissolvable at the will of any one of the partners, should be finally settled. At the very least, we suppose, these questions will be involved in the trial of the indictment on which DAVIS will be arraigned, and nothing in the world is more proper than that the Chief Justice should preside; so that not only the greatest possible dignity and learning shall attend the trial, but that whatever is established shall so far as it can, be a finality. It is to be confessed that the soil of Virginia, more especially the city of Richmond, is not the quarter out of which a verdict strictly in accordance with law and justice will necessarily come. On the contrary, it will be remarkable indeed if a jury can be obtained there unbiased and prepared to render a verdict in accordance with the law as the Chief Justice will, without doubt, lay it down.

The Albany *Argus* is not only the organ of the New York Democracy but every where a recognised exponent of the doctrines of the party. When it is known, therefore, that it is for negro suffrage, some people may be disposed to open their eyes. At present in New York a property qualification is attached to negro voting, and this is one of the questions which will come under review in the Constitutional Convention about to assemble in that State. In view of this, the *Argus* has put forth a manifesto setting forth "what the Democracy will demand from the convention," On suffrage it says:

> 5. That *all inhabitants* who have resided in the State, after they are 21 years of age, for three years, in the county one year, and six months in the voting district next preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote, and who have not been convicted of any infamous crime, and who have, or shall be entitled to vote for all officers without regard to other qualifications.

This is negro suffrage, pure and simple, and it shows a remarkable advancement on the part of the Democracy, for it was but a very short time since that equal suffrage was one of the horrors of the leaders: now it is one of the points they demand to have inserted in the new constitution of New York. This, in a mild form, may be regarded as going to show that the world *still* moves!

JEFFERSON DAVIS in Libby Prison! How suggestive the announcement by telegraph that this is to become true. But Libby of to-day is not the one of those days of torture, and every kind of dreadful suffering, borne by Union soldiers. Could the arch traitor be consigned for one single month to the condition in which hundreds and thousands through him suffered, we presume few would object to his release, to become the outcast he is certain to become among his countrymen. Even though the Libby of to-day be a parlor, there is something in the fact of JEFFERSON DAVIS becoming the tenant of it by compulsion that savors strongly of justice. Though no physical suffering result therefrom, such an imprisonment will be not wholly unattended by actual suffering—for even he can yet feel how fearful are the changes which time has wrought.

NOTWITHSTANDING the appearances to the contrary a short time since, it is a fixed fact now that for some time to come, the tide of immigration to our shores will rise higher than ever before. It will be from all nations; and present appearances favor the conclusion that the number of immigrants will be limited only by by the means of transportation. That such an infusion as this of laborers of every description will effect sensibly the labor market of our country, is indisputable; and taking place, as it will, at the moment of estrangement between the employer and the employed, the circumstance becomes one of much importance to both, and it is more than probable that in it will be found, to a considerable extent at least, the solution of the labor problem as it at present agitates our country. Neither side will be likely to lose sight of it.

THE nerves of New York have been disturbed with some apprehensions of an organized outbreak of resistance to the excise law—a city edition of the great whisky insurrection. The enforcement of the laws respecting the sale of liquors and the closing of grog shops on the Sabbath day, offended large numbers of persons accustomed to dispense and imbibe the article. To suspend the usual facilities for intoxication, one day in the week, is reckoned an intolerable act of tyranny, and hence those who reckon among their rights, as American citizens, native or adopted, intoxication, disorderly conduct and disturbance of the public peace, have threatened a riotous resistance. It is remarkable, what an easy rallying point, for riotous persons, whisky is. Excise laws seldom meet with much opposition till they are put in execution. There is the greatest respect paid to liquor laws as long as they stick on the page of the statute book, but when applied and enforced, to secure sobriety and order in the community, then there is opposition.

FATHER MAGUIRE said, to those of his people who persisted in drinking, contrary to his admonitions, "if ye will drink whisky ye may as well leave your sixpence with BARNY COYLE as anybody else." This is somewhat like the course of the Democrats about the negroes' voting. After all the denunciation of it, and all the horror of negro suffrage, as soon as it appears that they will vote, the Democrats are as covetous of their votes and as unscrupulous in getting them, as any other class of politicians; if the negroes will vote they may as well vote on the Democratic side as on the other.

THE defeat of the Liberals on the Reform question in the British House of Commons, on the night of the ninth, was as complete as it was unexpected. The triumph of the DERBY Compromise Bill, after a fierce struggle, in which BRIGHT and GLADSTONE violently assaulted the government measure, was lost by sixty-six votes. This, however, will only protract the struggle, for the Reform party will keep right on, and, judging from the past, with a sure prospect, under wise management, of success.

JEFFERSON DAVIS arrived in Richmond on Saturday and lodgings were furnished him, not in Libby Prison, but at the Spottswood House, the best hotel in Richmond, where he was having the best his friends could provide. His trial, it is said, will begin to-day, and it is said, furthermore, Judge UNDERWOOD will preside. There has been so much contradiction about this business that it is best not to place too much trust in reports. It does, however, appear that the trial of DAVIS now is actually intended.

THE positive assertion that Chief Justice CHASE would go to Richmond and try DAVIS, is denied, and to it is added the remark that the Chief Justice considers Judge UNDERWOOD equal to the emergency. This latter observation throws a grave doubt over the denial.

Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Case.

This case was set for trial in the Circuit Court of the United States on Monday last, but by some means the Pennsylvania Railroad Company have succeeded in having it continued until the December term. The court once refused an application to this effect, but upon a new application granted it. We had hoped, says the Cumberland *Civilian*, that this matter would be finally decided at this term of the court, but we are doomed to disappointment. We must now look to the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania, at present in session at Harrisburgh. The case of the people of Baltimore city and the State of Maryland against the people of Pennsylvania—that is the Pittsburgh and Connellsville vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad—will come before the court on Tuesday next, the 15th inst. If decided in favor of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road, the decision is final; if against the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road, an appeal may be taken. Inasmuch as the courts of Pennsylvania have already three times given decisions favorably to this road, we may reasonably anticipate another of like character, and thus have our interests in this very important work secured.

Gen. King and Protestant Worship in Rome.

Gen. Rufus King, Minister to Rome, recently wrote a letter complaining that the statements which have been made about the closing of the Protestant places of worship in Rome misrepresented the facts. The purport of Gen. King's letter is, that no attempt was made to close the American Chapel, on the contrary it is now open, protected by the arms of the United States Legation. To this the N. Y. *Observer* (whose editor made the statement complained of) rejoins by saying that "this act had the same effect as if he had moved an army to guard it." The *Observer* says further:

> "The arms of the Legation gave it the protection of its own Government as if the chapel had been 'transferred to American soil. The fact dare not affirm. But for this act on the part of Gen. King the chapel would long since have been closed. And even now ten or twelve Americans, if they are Protestants, are not allowed together to pray to God, in a room anywhere within the walls of Rome but in the American chapel, which, according to all our information, is very high church at that. The public have not been misinformed in regard to this matter, but there are those who are now seeking to create a false impression as to the facts in the case. The facts are simply as we have given them above."

It probably is not doing Gen. King any injustice to suggest that he wrote under the irritation occasioned by the abolition of the Mission and the consequent abolition of his office.

Twenty-Ninth Senatorial District.

Col. D. C. McCoy and H. L. Richmond, of Crawford County, are the competing candidates for the Senatorial nomination in the Twenty-ninth District, Hon. Morrow B. Lowry having declined to be a candidate. Senator Lowry is induced to decline for the sake of harmony in the party, which threatens to be disturbed on account of a diversity of opinion on local questions. His card declining the nomination concludes as follows:

> Therefore, under all the circumstances, you had better look after a new man as your candidate for State Senator. You, nor I could not agree to have an issue made on nomination with, and could not obtain it without. A contest for the position upon up just would take from me the power to be useful before I obtained it, and give both of us a weakness instead of strength necessary for the field. If the office would be forfeited for my cause's sake, with the unanimity for the sake of the cause, I would take it, for I appreciate it as well what is due to you, to myself, and my own sense of justice to refuse it, although personally I do not desire it.

Senator Lowry, in yielding to public sentiment, has set an excellent example—one no doubt that will be extensively imitated. As an effective advocate of the Free Railway Law he will be missed from the Senate, though it is scarcely to be doubted that his successor will be entirely sound on the People's Measure.

The Gettysburg Asylum Lottery.

The Managers of the Gettysburg Asylum Lottery Scheme threaten the press with prosecutions for libel because it has ventured to expose the character of the scheme. They resent the idea that it is an incorporated swindle, an act characteristic of the Legislature, and threaten to go to the courts to make somebody prove it is—if he can. At this the Philadelphia *Ledger*—the paper which first made the exposure—is not at all scared, but comes back on the aforesaid managers after the following fashion:

> "If the projectors and promoters of this scheme, the effect of which is to revive the lottery system in Pennsylvania, think that what has heretofore been published in the *Ledger* on the subject is really theirs, and to any particular individual, we express our readiness to meet them in court, and invite them to take their legal proceedings, instead of wasting their words in idle threats. We have quite a fund of information relating to the proposed Gettysburg Asylum Lottery that we have not yet seen the necessity for issuing before the public. But there is still more that we do not fully know, but merely have the clue to it that can be better brought out in a court of justice than anywhere else."

We venture the prediction that the managers will only be too anxious to keep out of the courts.

The Fenians—The Magnitude of their Plans and Numbers.

The Fenian trials in Dublin have brought out some interesting facts as to the magnitude of the intended operations in Ireland. In Dublin the men numbered from 14,000 to 18,000, and the arms of all sorts among them numbered but 3,000! Probably the rifles possessed by the entire force did not number 500. In Cork the proportions were still more preposterous—being 1,500 weapons to 30,000 men! And of these the vast majority were spikes. Surely, after this, there is no need to ask why the Fenian rising failed, or why the insurrectionary parties were unable to stand their ground against the police and the soldiers. The English authorities were perfectly informed as to the intentions of the Fenians, through traitors who were at the same time trusted officers in the Fenian cause and drawing pay as such.

The London *Times* has a pretty just appreciation of what the United States are, and what rank she holds independent of the Paris show. It says:

> "She has the best opportunities for the investment of the capital that is represented by strong arms and a good head; and the contributions that would really represent wealth would be the axe, but the sturdy pioneer that wields it, and the thousand flourishing cities that now cover the plains where a few years ago the Indian hunted on dry grass fires in front of his wretched hut."

Unless Frenchmen have poor memories they have not forgotten the exhibition made of one of our "natives" off their coast not long ago,—we refer to the naval fight between the Kearsarge and Alabama. We might have sent over one of our Pittsburgh 20-inch guns, and its 1,000 pound shots—or something of that kind, about which we have been busying ourselves for a few years past, and which would have been in keeping with our progress, and give the other nations a tolerable idea of us. As it is, we have sent a few trinkets only, and they of an indifferent sort.

LUCKY Colorado, for Governor Cummings has resigned the Governorship of the Territory to accept the Collectorship of the Fourth Pennsylvania District, which Senator Cameron, against the protest of all the Republicans, procured for him at the hands of Mr. Johnson; and whose nomination, by some hocus-pocus or other, the Senate confirmed. When the news gets to Colorado great will be the rejoicing. The President at once appointed Mr. Hunt (Democrat.) who contests Mr. Chillicott's (Republican) seat as delegate from that Territory. Mr. Chillicott is the sitting member, and by this move Mr. Hunt virtually abandons the contest, which he knew was hopeless.

THE Chicago *Journal*, of Thursday evening, says the eight hour excitement has almost wholly subsided, nine-tenths of the strikers have gone to work as before. Theoretically, says the *Journal*, the eight hour system is in force, but practically it is not, for in a large majority of cases men are working ten hours, as heretofore—many who had the privilege of choosing between the two systems having decided that for the present, at least, it is better for them to work ten hours a day and receive the same wages as formerly than to knock off two hours for each day's work and receive less pay. The strike has proved an expensive failure and is not likely to be undertaken again.

IT is reported that Gen. Steadman, Collector of Internal Revenue in New Orleans, has discovered immense whisky frauds, involving men in high business and social position. The old story—and it shocks all previous ideas of honor and integrity to hear it so often. It is a sad commentary that at this moment government is compelled to use the greatest vigilance to defend itself from frauds committed by a class of men to whom ordinarily the greatest confidence would be accorded—but who, nevertheless, do not scruple to commit frauds whenever they can. It is a fact that the severest statutes are for such men—and that it is for the respectable, not the confessed scoundrel, government is compelled to keep the sharpest look out. There is certainly in this enough to provoke thoughts somewhat in conflict with previous ideas.

IT must feel somewhat like the famous "wet blanket," to Buffalo, to have its harbor and offing suddenly filled, glutted and choked with ice in this bright and cheerful month of May. To say nothing of others, it could not have been to grain speculators a pleasant Lake view, to see the extensive floes approaching the shores in advance of their expected vessels from the West, nor, when the the harbor was gorged with the unwelcome icy visitant, to see their grain vessels beating about, without prospect of speedy entrance and with danger of going to the bottom in case of a storm. Buffalo is liable to such trouble from ice in the spring, but it rarely continues for any length of time. The influence of the sun and warm air sinks the ice, or an easterly wind scatters it again on the Lake.

THE New York *Times* says it is "pained to observe that the Rural Press, the Western Press, the Southern Press, and the Boston Press are paying so little attention to those civilized counsels which now habitually characterize the decenter portion of the Metropolitan Press." If the *Times* will specify whom it means by "the decenter portion of the Metropolitan press," we presume the outside barbarians, for which so much feeling is manifested, will lose no time in making them the objects of their study and imitation. But as the Metropolitan Press in general has an established reputation for that which the *Times* so much deprecates in its rural brethren, and seeing the decency of which it speaks is so rare as not to be seen with the naked eye, the barbarians are quite in the dark. If the *Times* is perpetrating a "sarkasm," then the thing is easily understood. We suspect this is what it is at.

THE meeting of great railroad managers—rather managers of great railroads—in New York, is an assemblage of gentlemen who appear to take great delight in annually entering into an arrangement to be broken in the most dexterous manner. Probably at no time in our railway history have there been so great and varied efforts put forth for routes and connections and for obtaining advantages in various ways as at the present. Some of these efforts, the most strenuous, we might say, have in view the Pacific road and its ramifications. Whatever may appear on the surface, the public may depend upon it—and so it will appear before long—great games are on foot, and if the National Treasury is not made to bleed, it will be strange indeed. Time will disclose what they are.

THE New Orleans *Picayune* says: "We believe the highest vote polled at any election in this city previous to the war amounted to between 11,000 and 13,000. The official report from headquarters fixes the number of those who had registered, up to the 30th ult., at whites, 9,012, colored, 8,687. At this ratio, it is fair to presume that before the registration is closed, the colored vote will greatly exceed the highest white ever polled. Of course, this white vote, under the most liberal construction as to the qualification of voters, must, necessarily, be greatly diminished, not to say anything about the effect of the arbitrary restrictions enforced by the present registrars in the performance of their duty.

A PARIS correspondent, referring to the improved display at the Exhibition, makes the remark that one, on seeing it, is impressed with the fact that "everybody should know so much." And the writer makes the further remark, that "each nation must be astonished at the knowledge of the other." These observations carry out the philosophy that men, the world over, instead of being dissimilar, are wonderfully alike, and that with this all close observers must be impressed. Going to sustain this kind of philosophy is the further remark of the same correspondent, who says: "An inventor puts up a machine at great cost, and when he walks into the division of another nation across the aisle, he finds a better invention for the same purpose."

AN immense amount of capital is employed, at the present time, in building houses. There is much more in the suburbs of Pittsburgh and the suburban county than in the city proper. But in all, one would judge by a general survey, that there are four times as many buildings in process of erection, as there have been any year for the past six or eight. It will undoubtedly have a mitigating influence on the rent of houses next year. Whether the houses are built by capitalists to lease, or by persons for their own occupancy, this result will ensue, and it will be very much to the relief and benefit of the community. With a decline in rents, will come a like improvement in other things. The tendency, although resisted by cupidity, is evidently in a direction toward the natural and normal condition of things.

THE report that negotiations are going on at Washington for the purchase by our Government of the British possessions on the North-west Coast, has reached the people of that region, and it is evident that they are entirely willing to exchange their political relations. The Victoria (Vancouver's Island) *Colonist* remarks editorially that "nine out of every ten men in the colony, under their present state of wretchedness and poverty, would welcome annexation to the United States." The question is one of time only, and then, most likely, our Government will have it. There is no evidence the report referred to is founded in.

A NEW YORK letter says: "The prevailing conviction among the longest heads of Wall street is that the London Peace Conference will result as our Peace Conference did at Washington before the late civil war—in nothing—save to show how impossible it is when hot blood is up on both sides, and all sides, to maintain harmony and effect a settlement by an appeal to reason rather than the sword. The London dispatches are of a character to strengthen this belief, and hence, in sympathy with the discouraging aspect of things there, the speculators in the 'bear' interest here are running up the gold premium and making things generally as blue as possible."

THE labors of Senator Wilson in the South are bringing down upon his head the worst epithets of Phillips, Pillsbury & Co.,—and that is saying a great deal. Phillips omits no occasion to spear him, and Parker Pillsbury is doing his best to go as far as the farthest. For instance, the latter gentleman in a speech in New York, a few days ago, speaking of Senator Wilson, said he thought he was bad enough before he joined the church, but when he heard of his movement in that direction, he was confident he had not learned the worst of him; and his recent demonstration had satisfied him that his first fears were only too well grounded.

THE Boston Fruit Preserving Company in their recent report say that fish can be left in the fruit house, in a frozen condition, for an indefinite period of time. It was stated at the meeting that fish had been frozen solid in a few minutes, in one of the rooms, and that certain parties were desirous of putting twenty thousand pounds of salmon into the house, in July next, when salmon are cheap, and that they purpose to sell them next season, from time to time as the market shall demand. There may be a suggestion in this by which others, interested in similar enterprises, may profit.

A SELECT company, calling themselves the American Anti-Slavery Society, are making a great ado at their annual meeting in New York, from which one would be led to suppose that some millions of human beings in this land were held in bondage, and that there was imminent danger of the rest becoming enslaved. The Anti-Slavery Society has done its work. If the Society chooses to continue in existence let it recognize the result of recent history, and manifest some common sense in adapting its labor and talk to the exact state of the times.

VIENNA, said to be next to Paris in gaiety, is now spoken of as not behind the French capital in the number of its suicides. Dissipation and licentiousness are understood to be large ingredients in what is denominated gaiety in those cities. And the intimate connection of these with extreme misery and despair accounts for the prevalence, among such a people, of the horrid expedient to which they madly betake themselves—the tragic and shocking afterpiece to a life degraded, from high and worthy purposes, to mere farce and comedy.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The New York papers announce a new description of hats and bonnets, now being manufactured in that vicinity. They are described as an imitation of the finest braided straw, Leghorn and Panama hats; as light and handsome, waterproof and proof against crushing, durable and cheap. If they will answer all this, they will sell.

The Charleston, South Carolina, street cars have become comparatively deserted since the appearance of the military order enabling negroes to ride in them the same as white folks. The cars were formerly chiefly patronized by the ladies and children, and the railroad companies have almost entirely lost this class of patronage. The cars are